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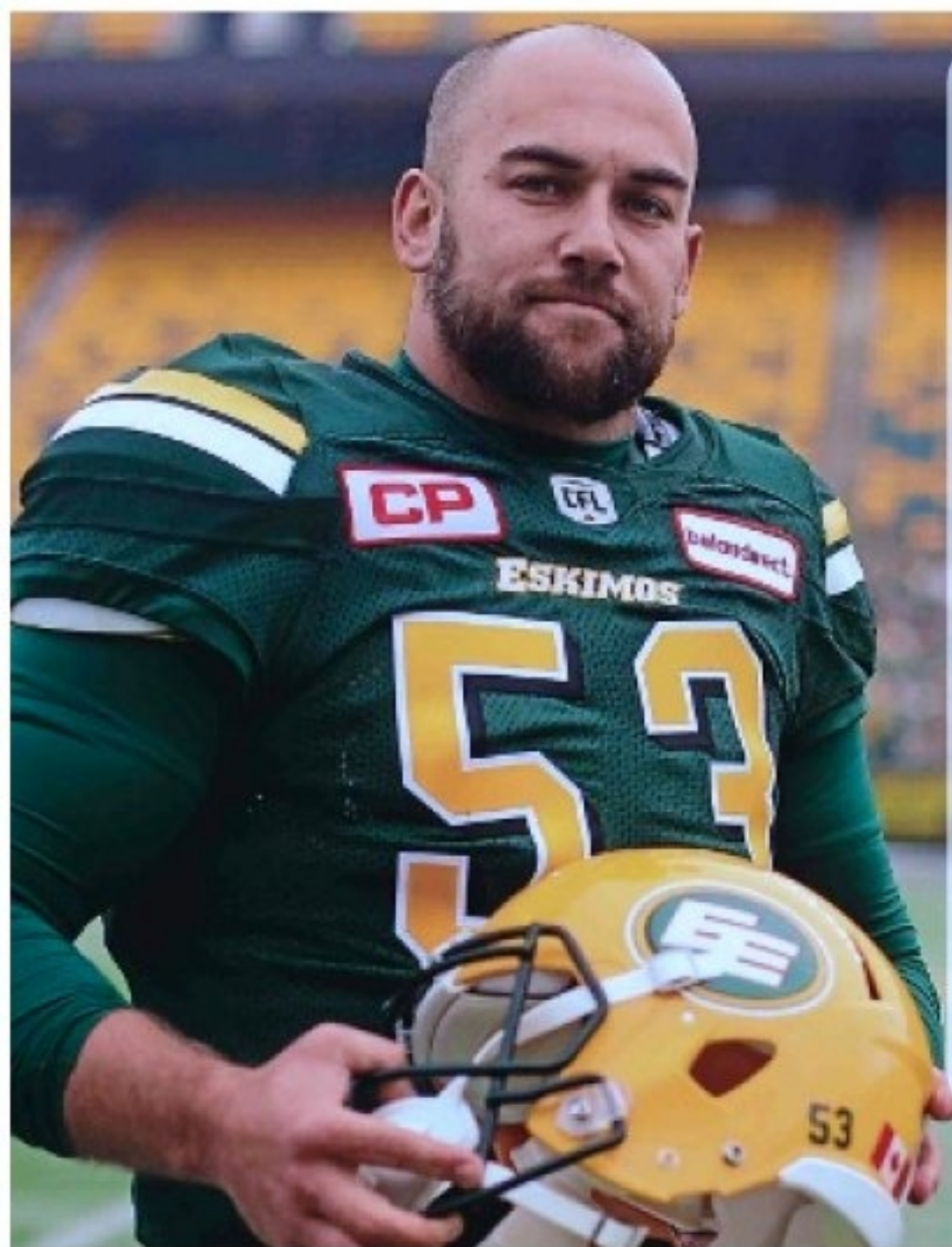
FOCUS ON FAMINE

**'These aren't
unsolvable
problems.'**

Canadian
Katherine Clark
on the situation
in Nigeria,
metroNEWS

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2017

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**'It takes
a strong
man to
stand up
and say
this is not
all right.'**

Football player **Ryan King**
speaks out on violence
against women and
raising healthy boys

metroNEWS

DAVID P. BALL/METRO

City working on housing for gay seniors

AFFORDABILITY

**Older LGBT
community
faces bullying by
peers: Advocate**



**Jeremy
Simes**
Metro | Edmonton

The city is working on a new project so LGBT seniors aren't forced back into the closet when facing prejudiced peers in old-folks homes.

Edmonton released a report Thursday showing the city is committing funds to study how affordable housing agencies can accommodate low-income LGBT seniors.

The push for change comes as some aging LGBT people face bullying as they move into supportive housing alongside residents who still hold ignorant attitudes, according to Michael

Phair, co-ordinator with the Edmonton Pride Seniors Group.

"We're talking about individuals who grew up in the '50s and the '60s, when a great deal of prejudice, bias and some violence existed," said Phair, also a former city councillor. "Many of our LGBT seniors had to cut ties with their families at a younger age to be who they are, and then they come into some of these unwelcoming environments later in life."

The report noted that anywhere between 4,700 and 12,000 people who are 55 and older in Edmonton identify as LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer or Questioning).

Phair said training for staff and residents is key to ensuring LGBT seniors feel safe, adding anti-discriminatory policies might be necessary.

"We need environments where LGBT people aren't afraid and feel safe," he said. "It's overwhelming for them to deal with prejudice again in their older years."

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COMMUNITY

Looking for families in need to feed

Lucy Haines
For Metro | Edmonton

Simply Supper, a local company that lets people pre-assemble meals to eat later, has an unusual problem.

Over the last four years, the frozen-meal company has donated over 3,000 meals to 174 families in need through annual drives. This year they've got the food — but they need the families.

"Growing up, my family used the food bank, and I always said if I can give back, I will," said Simply Supper owner Monita Chapman.

Chapman said they've got meals ready to go for 65 families facing any type of challenge — like illness or economic hardship — but so far have only received enough nominations to fill a third of those spots.

They're hoping to get more nominations before April 7.

"Clients and volunteers and former nominees help spread the word, but we want to help anyone facing difficulty of any kind throughout Edmonton and area."

"Giving enough meals for about a month can help people get through. It just takes the pressure off, takes away the worry of getting something on the table when life is overwhelming or in turmoil," Chapman said.

Stephanie Moore understands the comfort and power a simple meal can offer.

Diagnosed with breast cancer a year ago, and with children

aged 3 and 6, Moore said getting 18 family-sized meals took away the worry about providing a healthy, nutritious meal for her kids when her world was turned upside down.

"Some days all I could face was having cereal for dinner — this just took one thing off my plate at such an emotional time. It was awesome to feel so supported when the rug was pulled out from under," she said.

Moore had previously been one of the dozens of volunteers who spend a busy spring day assembling and delivering 1,200 meals to 65 nominated families — that's 5,000 servings of seafood, chicken, pork and beef-based meals.

"No one knows when they may be in need of community support: a mom with new baby, loved one in hospital or caring for elderly family member, so a home-cooked meal delivered with love and a hug can make a world of difference," said Chapman.

Nominations can be made through the Simply Supper website.



Monita Chapman owns Simply Supper. CONTRIBUTED

Loss of space tough to digest for fests

CHURCHILL SQUARE

City may fund relocation for three major events

Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Taste of Edmonton is urgently looking for temporary digs for 2018 as Churchill Square gets set to undergo major renovations that will temporarily displace several festivals.

City administration recommended Thursday that a combined \$372,500 be given to Taste of Edmonton, the Works Art and Design Festival and the Edmonton International Street Performers Festival to pay for relocation costs (utilities, facility rental fees, temporary infrastructure and additional staff) for one year.

The popular downtown gathering space will be partially closed from September this year to about April 2019 for renovations and LRT construction, meaning events will have to move.

"It's been stressful for us to find a new location," said Paul Lucas, general manager with Events Edmonton, which runs Taste of Edmonton. "If anything, we've run up against a lot of roadblocks for locations."

Lucas said the festival organ-



Paul Lucas says it's been stressful for Taste of Edmonton to find new digs. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

izers need to find space for 48 restaurants that need running water and power, as well as 18 food trucks and a stage.

"Finding a place big enough for all of that, for one, is challenging," he said, noting organizers would like a place downtown.

"We'd like a location that will support the city's downtown lunchtime crowd."

As for the other organizations, Works is looking to relocate to the Legislature's Capital Plaza in 2018, while Street Performers will move over to Dr. Wilbert McIntyre Park, off Whyte Avenue.

Roger Jevne, branch manager with community and recreation facilities, said festival organizers understand they need to move out of the square.

"Everyone is doing their best trying to accommodate the change," he said. "They will come back in 2019 in good shape."

If city councillors indicate they're willing to commit to those funds during a committee meeting Monday, administration will prepare a formal budget ask this fall.

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VACATION GETAWAY

Influencing tattoo trends

BUSINESS

Industry is diversifying with more female artists



Pushpa Balgobin
For Metro | Edmonton

A growing number of women in the tattoo industry — both creating and getting ink done — has changed the art being produced, according to one artist featured at the Edmonton Tattoo and Arts Festival this weekend.

"Tattoos are very mainstream and a lot of women want women to tattoo them," said Cheyanne Kot, an Edmonton-based tattoo artist participating in the event as a featured artist for the fourth year in a row.

"A lot of my clients are young women, and they want pretty art," she said.

Kot, whose work features a lot of mandalas — geometric designs meaningful in Hindu and Buddhist symbolism — and



Cheyanne Kot, a tattoo artist at Crimson Tattoo shop will be tattooing at festivals this weekend.

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

dot work, said she focuses on creating work that resonates with young women.

"For the past like two years I have been starting to feel like

I have a style," she said. "Way more confident."

This is the third year as a featured artist for Katrina Vimtrup. She recalls how nervous she was

the first time she attended the Festival, and how having another female tattoo artist around calmed her nerves.

Now, she works out of a shop

“It’s how you approach the art and create and showcase your interpretations.”
Katrina Vimtrup

called Ritualistics, which has an all-female staff, though unintentionally.

She said the tattoo industry has “definitely turned a corner,” as a growing number of both female professionals and clients influence the type of work being done.

"I think women can see themselves wearing more styles," Vimtrup said. "Everything has been done, but it's how you approach the art and create and showcase your interpretations."

Vimtrup, whose work features neo-traditional tattoos, added that having a broader range of talent working in the industry means more art to choose from.

"The injection of female artists adds more variety."

TRANSPORTATION

Hyperloop startup scouting Alberta



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

A Toronto-based startup that wants to build hyperloop technology will be scouting out Alberta in April as a potential site for its research and development.

TransPod CEO, Sebastian Gendron, said the company's goal is to develop both transportation pod and tube technology from the ground up, so it can be marketed and installed worldwide.

The idea of hyperloop transportation involves passenger pods that move through low-pressure pipelines at jet-airliner speeds over medium distances.

Gendron said his company's goal has been a hyperloop track between Toronto and Montreal, but he sees merit in an Edmonton-Calgary link as well.

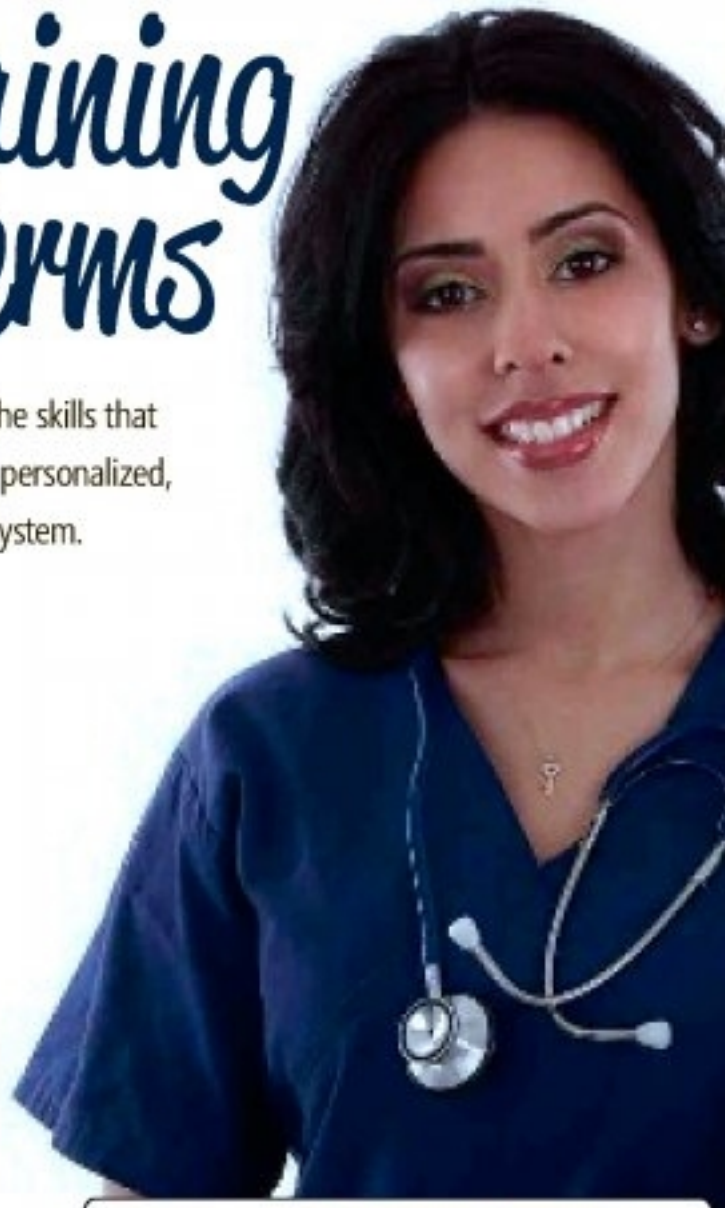
His immediate interest is in setting up a research and development facility, and a test track for the pods.

"I'm looking forward to come and see what we can do in Alberta," he said.

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Mike Hudema and Heather Inglis are organizing an interdisciplinary arts event at the Garneau Theatre this weekend called Gravity. KEVIN TUONG/METRO

Creating the world we want

ARTS

Artists band together to create change with Gravity



David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Let's admit it: these are heavy times for many in Edmonton and beyond.

Whether it's the fallout from Alberta's economic downturn, poverty, the imminent climate threat, missing Indigenous women or the refugee crisis — the future can seem at times bleak.

"There's a lot of things going on in the world, and a lot of us are struggling with how to deal with them," explained Edmonton activist Mike Hudema in a phone interview. But coming out of a theatre background, the outspoken advocate on environmental and social issues often turns to the arts to try to cope.

This Monday, he's helping organize an event featuring Edmonton artists with curator Heather Inglis — the artistic director of Theatre Yes.

The event is called "Gravity: A celebration of arts and politics," because as Hudema explained, "We wanted to give 20 of Edmonton's finest artists a chance to speak to the gravity of the situation we live in."

"Artists have always been at the forefront of social change. And they also have

a unique way of helping us interpret our world, and can help us move forward and give us the energy and passion to help us create the world we want."

As Inglis explained, artists in the city enthusiastically agreed to participate in the event, whether as visual or performance creators, spoken word, musicians or filmmakers, because "many want to be responsive to what's happening culturally, politically and socially — in the zeitgeist today — and to keep our work relevant and contemporary."

Artists, performers and cultural creators at Monday's event include Savanna Harvey, Ahmed Knowmadic Ali, Nasra Adem, Julie Ferguson, Adam Bentley, Nisha Patel, Timiro Mohamed, and Grindstone Theatre.

The "gravity" theme ties to a previous project Inglis curated last year, titled "Anxiety."

"Anxiety is something we all know we have and is growing, it's of epidemic proportions in the modern age," she said. "That has ramped up post-Trump for a lot of people — this has been a hard few months."

"So much that's going on is frightening... It feels like 'gravity' is essential to give artists from all kinds of different mediums an opportunity to create work about what concerns them most."

Gravity starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Metro Cinema (8712 109 St.). Tickets: \$15 at www.metrocinema.org/film_view/6156.

LISTINGS

What's on this weekend in Edmonton



Pushpa Balgobin
For Metro | Edmonton

ALL WEEKEND

2017 World Men's Curling Championship

For the first time Edmonton will play host to the world championships of men's curling at Northlands Coliseum. Rinks from 12 countries will face off this weekend in a com-

petition that continues into next week.

When: April 1 to 9, 2017
Where: Northlands Coliseum

Cannabis and Hemp Expo

The event is designed to educate on the emerging marijuana industry, and how legalized cannabis use could be rolled out. The expo will include a trade show, seminars and panel discussions

When: Friday to Saturday, various times
Where: Edmonton Expo Centre

SATURDAY

Street Dance Competition
Street dancers from across Canada will throw down at Artists Emerge's annual dance competition.

When: Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Where: Northern Jubilee Auditorium

SUNDAY

Comic Darren Carter has performed on The Tonight Show and Comedy Central, and now he's coming to Edmonton. Raised in a multicultural adoptive home by a Baptist minister, he uses self-deprecating humour to spin tales of growing up in a blue-collar neighbourhood.

When: Sunday 7:00 PM
Where: Comic Strip West Edmonton Mall.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

CFL star speaks out, tackles the changing face of masculinity



David P. Ball
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton Eskimos long snapper Ryan King is speaking out to urge men "to be more positive and to help each other out," particularly when it comes to hidden problems at home and relationship struggles.

"Everyone has the right to be safe in their own home, the one place that's yours," he told Metro on the field at Commonwealth Stadium on Thursday. "If you have domestic problems in your house, that's gotta be a really dark place."

"Even though you're maybe going through a tough time, maybe we can help guide you in the right direction. Men can make a big difference in domestic abuse and violence against

women ... It takes a strong man to stand up and say, 'This is not all right, we don't accept this.'"

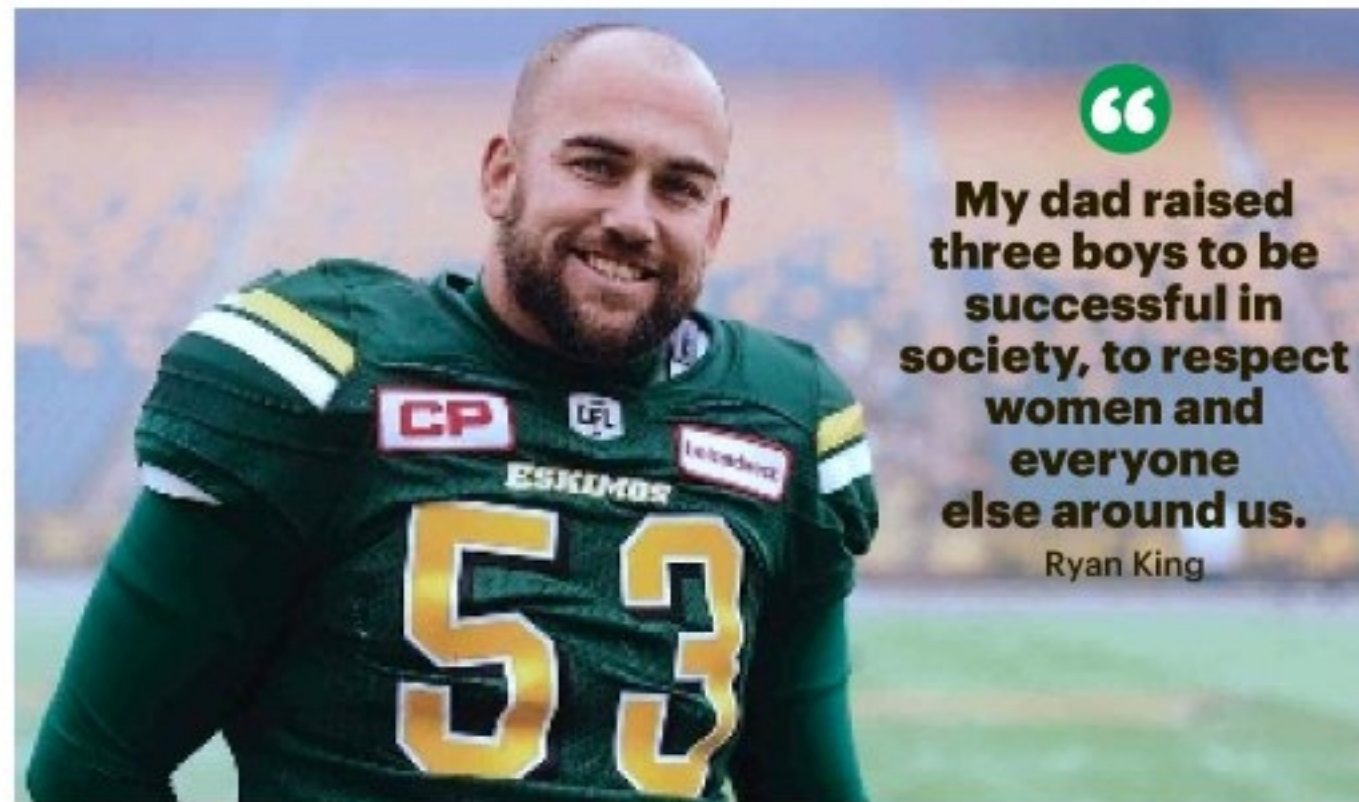
The Edmonton-born, Sherwood Park-raised CFL player is one of several men who are part of a panel and film screening on Saturday that's asking, "How can we raise and celebrate a healthier generation of boys and young men?"

Organizers invited him and other panelists to be "both vulnerable and open" in speaking out about his "experiences negotiating masculinity" as well "the broader social forces shaping" what it means to be a man in society today.

The question is especially urgent in the city: according to a report released in January, Edmonton's rate of domestic violence is nearly three times the national rate.

King is speaking alongside engineer and advocate Kala Sritharan, Indigenous elder Philip Campiou, David Long of King's University and MLA David Shepherd.

The panel — which will be moderated by CHED radio host Ryan Jespersen — will tackle



Edmonton Eskimo Ryan King insists men must help stop domestic violence. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

some of the thorny themes raised by the documentary *The Mask You Live In* that's being screened at Metro Cinema beforehand.

"In North America, we have a fairly strict set of criteria or expectations of what a man should look like," explained City of Edmonton social worker Michael

Hoyt, who helped organize the event in partnership with the group Men Edmonton. "Those look like strength being very important, maybe not valuing authentic friendships, seeing women as objects and seeing violence as a way of solving conflict. "We want to expand the def-

“
My dad raised three boys to be successful in society, to respect women and everyone else around us.
”
Ryan King

DETAILS

The film screening of *The Mask You Live In* and panel discussion will be held Saturday from 4-7 p.m. at Metro Cinema (8712 109 St.). Registration is free and can be found at maskyoulivein2017.eventbrite.ca. Other resources for men are at menedmonton.org and albertamen.com.

everyone, to reach out to those men who wouldn't normally attend an event like this," he added.

"If your message is (that) men need to be strong, on your game at all times and to toughen up in the face of adversity, then you have to steel yourself from emotionally connecting when you're vulnerable."

"The long-term consequence is you have fellows who are islands unto themselves and don't end up nurturing relationships that can sustain them through times of difficulty."

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5 WAYS THE ARENA HAS CHANGED EDMONTON

Rogers Place is changing the ways Edmontonians experience downtown. The city released a report Thursday with updates on how things have gone since the arena opened in September 2016. Here are a few of the ways Rogers Place is shaping Edmonton. **JEREMY SIMES** METRO

1 Transit

The report said informal passenger counts indicate **LRT** ridership is down 15 per cent compared to the number of people who took transit to watch the Oilers play at Rexall Place. But this is based on peace officers who count people for 60 to 90 minutes at Bay/Enterprise and MacEwan Stations following events at the arena. The city has said these counts don't include people who frequent restaurants following events.

2 Financial implications

The arena was a hefty investment for taxpayers, but according to the report, new construction is boosting tax revenue, and events are a benefit to the local economy. For instance, **Garth Brooks'** nine Edmonton shows in February pumped \$42 million into the local economy. The number is based on an assessment provided by the Oilers Entertainment Group.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



METRO FILE

3 Safety and security

Edmonton **police** have reported an increase in crime and calls for service immediately around the area, according to the report. However, calls for service are primarily coming from police officers, and calls from the public have decreased by 7.8 per cent. Police also noted that serious crimes, like assault, have decreased.



KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

4 Community benefits

The city said in the report that programming at the **community arena** and Rogers Place has become more popular. The community rink is now drawing "large numbers" of users for programming, such as free skates and helmets. On top of that, Ford Hall is being considered for community programs that would allow 400 kids to participate in a tennis training course.



CONTRIBUTED



METRO FILE

5 Parking

The city has used existing parking facilities to meet demand, and while the report says parking costs were high when Rogers Place first opened, rates continue to decrease as the market adjusts. Business owners have also raised concerns about the changes to **on-street parking**. The city said it's made changes to parking time restrictions and reduced the number of road closures to mitigate problems.

KIA WEST EDMONTON

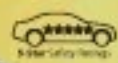
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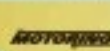
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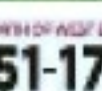
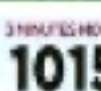
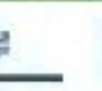
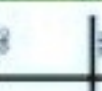
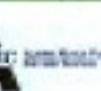
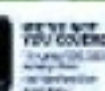


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Progressive Conservative Ric McIver KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Opposition frustrated

HEARING

Child welfare panel not allowed to discuss cases

Opposition members of an Alberta government panel studying how to keep children in government care safe say they are frustrated by an inability to discuss cases of children who have died in care.

The 13-member panel — which includes members from all parties, along with other experts — held hearings in Calgary Thursday.

The panel was created after it was revealed there had been little action in the case of Serenity, a four-year-old girl who died more than two years ago while in kinship care despite concerns from her birth mother that she was being mistreated.

An emaciated and hypothermic Serenity was taken to hospital in September 2014 with dilated pupils and multiple bruises, including around her pubic area. She had an extensive brain injury and died soon after.

Wildrose member Jason Nixon said the panel is supposed to make recommendations on how death reviews are conducted, but members can't talk about specific cases that have been reviewed previously.

"How can I make a recommendation when I don't know what went wrong with the other cases?" he said. "I find that ludicrous."

Alberta Party Leader Greg Clark said the panel is also hampered by child-care workers who seem to have "closed ranks" and appear afraid to express any concerns they might have about the system.

"Where that exists, I think it's unlikely that we'll ever get to the bottom of why things happened — why deaths of kids in care, why kids continue to be abused and that doesn't seem to ever change," Clark said.

Progressive Conservative member Ric McIver said he isn't ready to pass judgement on the panel's effectiveness, but said it's important politics be put aside. Serenity's death should help pinpoint what went wrong so a similar tragedy never happens again, he said.

"When Serenity died it was under our government's watch, not the current government's watch," McIver said. "But I think this issue is so important, it has to transcend partisan politics and let's actually talk about who and where and how the mistakes were made."

Children's Services Minister Danielle Larivee says more details on individual cases will likely be heard in the second phase of the panel's consultations. But she said there are deep, systemic issues that go beyond one individual case.

"They would like to be able to say that there was some person that we can punish out of this," said Larivee. "But realistically, this has happened over and over and over again for decades. Clearly it's not just one person who made a mistake." THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRADE

Premier checking to see if Wall is breaking deal

Cross-boundary political sniping between Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Saskatchewan's Brad Wall has escalated over Wall's attempt to poach oil and gas firms.

Wall's government sent letters earlier this week to several Calgary-based energy companies offering them incentives to relocate to Saskatchewan.

The government is offering to subsidize relocation costs, trim taxes and royalties and help find space in unused gov-

ernment buildings.

Notley on Thursday called Wall's plan short-sighted and self-defeating. She said it probably breaks regional free-trade rules as well.

"The efforts of the province of Saskatchewan at this point likely do violate the New West Partnership as well as the (federal Agreement on Internal Trade)," Notley said in Red Deer where she was announcing a new courthouse.

"If I was a business owner

that resided in a smaller market, say Saskatchewan, that depended on an agreement that gave me access to a bigger market, say Alberta, I would be very concerned.

"(The New West) trade agreement actually promotes back and forth of business operations that contribute to prosperity on both sides of the border. And you don't touch one without pulling a really large string."

Notley said her government will review the trade agreement

and decide how to respond, but won't pull out of the deal, which reduces trade barriers among the four western provinces.

The partnership allows for dispute resolution with fines that can reach \$5 million.

Speaking in Regina, Wall said he doesn't believe he is violating any trade agreements, although he acknowledged he did not consult legal counsel before sending the letters.

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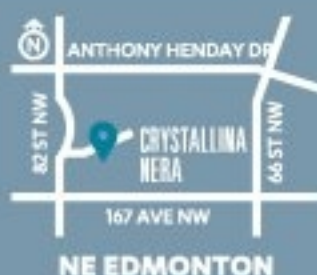
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Newly-elected leader of the Alberta PC party Jason Kenney. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LGBTQ youth aren't a political football

OPINION

GSA debate has become less focused on the kids

URBAN PARADIS

Danielle
Paradis



The debate over Gay-Straight Alliances this week — which had opponents facing off over whether parents should be notified, and even whether the clubs should exist at all — reached a crescendo with a tweet from k.d Lang.

"Are you gay?"

The beloved Alberta-born lesbian icon tweeted at Jason Kenney, the newly crowned leader of the Progressive Conservative party.

The debate has become personal.

But is any of this amped up political rhetoric doing anything to make potentially at-risk youth any safer?

Lang's question was in response to Kenney's comments in an editorial board meeting with Postmedia.

His comments, "I do, however, believe parents have the right to know what is going on with their kids in the school unless the parents are abusive" seem to indicate that he is OK with parental notification if a student joins a GSA.

Since then, politicians of every stripe have weighed in. But do they truly have the best interests of kids at heart?

I doubt it. In fact, it reminds me of the moral panic in early 2000 where parents who watched Dateline and Dr. Phil were fed an endless stream of urban myths about what 'the youth' were up to. (You haven't lived until you've talked to your grandmother about rainbow parties—gee thanks Oprah.)

Adding fuel to the fire, Education Minister David Eggen referred to Jason Kenney as an "extremist" in a Facebook post. It was a comment that I think most reasonable people, who probably associate extremist with ISIS, to be a little exaggerated.

Yes, Kenney has a voting record that earns him full marks for social conservative organizations like Campaign Life Coalition, but he wasn't suggesting exile or throwing LGBTQ people off a roof.

The issue of parental notification is contentious and many parents want to be kept informed about their child—but what adolescent doesn't already keep a few secrets from their parents, and why can't teachers be allowed to practice common sense?

Kids shouldn't have to come out to their parents until they are ready, and many young people choose

to tell their friends or siblings first.

But with every party except the Wildrose (who are curiously silent about this) weighing in on this, it's become more about political grandstanding than protecting the vulnerable. Even Greg Clark is on Twitter fighting with the Progressive Conservatives.

If it was really about kids maybe they would include them in the conversation. So far it's been people out of high school for over 20 years taking the center stage.

And really, Minister Eggen's has already required all school boards to submit a policy around protecting LGBTQ students and the only remaining battle is with a few Baptist schools.

The province already has laws that require school boards to create an inclusive environment for students and staff as well as a code of conduct that doesn't allow for discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

For the moment, the issue of GSAs appears to be settled. Any party wanting to roll back these policies will have to risk another Bill 10 fiasco. It looks to me that the only reason this debate is still going on is that things have ceased to become about the kids.

And started becoming about getting more party memberships.



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A woman protests in Halifax earlier this month over Judge Gregory Lenehan's decision to find a Halifax taxi driver not guilty in a high-profile sexual assault case. JEFF HARPER/METRO HALIFAX

It's 'a tricky line'

SEX ASSAULT

Legal expert weighs in on defence tactics vs. complainant



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

How far defence lawyers can go in questioning the credibility of a sexual assault complainant, and how much they were drinking, is a "tricky line," one Halifax expert says.

Wayne MacKay, Dalhousie

University law professor, said he felt "disappointment" to see another taxi sexual assault case in court this week involving Saher Hamdan, less than a month after cabbie Bassam Al-Rawi was acquitted by Judge Gregory Lenehan in a controversial decision hinging on consent that drew national attention and is being appealed.

"That is troubling, because one would hope that taxis are safe places to be," MacKay said Thursday.

In Hamdan's case, the 19-year-old passenger testified in court Wednesday the

driver rubbed her leg a few times without her consent, reached between her legs to pull a latch and slide back her seat, and he asked if he could kiss her the evening of July 15, 2016.

Defence lawyer John O'Neill extensively cross-examined the complainant on where her feet were in the cab at different points. Many readers commented on social media that they felt it was also irrelevant O'Neill questioned the woman at length about what she was drinking at the bar, and how much, before getting in the cab.

WORKPLACE

Millennials value mental health help



May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Millennials are looking for mental health support at work, according to a new survey from Centennial College and non-profit CivicAction, and more likely than other generations to use these kinds of services.

An Angus Reid survey of 1,521 adults found almost

“it's definitely not easy for young people to find their footing in life.”

Sarah Harris

two-thirds of millennials expect to access mental health services at work.

Lindsay Balbirnie, a Centennial College public relations student

who worked on the project, said they commissioned the survey to shed light on the mental health issues in the workplace.

"What we wanted to do was kind of draw the attention to the employers who would be hiring," she said.

Sarah Harris, communications director for CivicAction, said many millennials are in "a big transition point" at the beginning of their careers, which can be tough.

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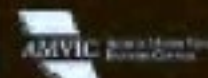
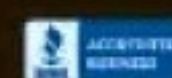
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Iceberg near-miss for oil platform



An iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland in February 2016.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

NEWFOUNDLAND

Husky says crew was ready for potential disconnect

A floating oil platform off Newfoundland has had a near-miss with an iceberg the size of a small office building.

Husky Energy said a

"medium size" iceberg came within 180 metres of the SeaRose FPSO at about 5:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"We had an iceberg pass close by our production facility," Husky's Colleen McConnell said Thursday.

"We've been monitoring this particular piece of ice for awhile. It changed direction at about two in the morning, and we obviously had to respond quickly."

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board described the iceberg as 40 metres wide, 60 metres long and standing eight metres above the waterline.

The massive, 270-metre SeaRose is Husky's lone oil-producing asset in the area. Built in 2004, the red-hulled, ship-like vessel can also store up to 940,000 barrels. The board says Husky de-pressurized production wells and flushed flow-

lines with treated seawater, while the crew mustered in preparation for a potential disconnect.

But the iceberg passed without incident and was more than 500 metres away by 6 a.m.

The board says it is discussing the near-miss with Husky.

Icebergs are monitored constantly in the area, about 350 kilometres east of St. John's in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin, McConnell said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MILITARY

General denies money troubles

The country's top soldier has pushed back on suggestions the armed forces is struggling from a lack of cash, saying he's not convinced it is making the most of the money it already gets.

Yet chief of defence staff Gen. Jonathan Vance says he is also eager to see the government's new defence policy, which has promised to put the military on a strong financial footing over the long term.

"The here and now is fine, we're delivering," Vance said in an interview with The Canadian Press. "But going forward, that's when the government committed to sustainable, progressive armed forces."

The question of military spending has taken on a life of its own over the last year, after U.S. President Donald Trump called on NATO allies to contribute more to their own defence.



Gen. Jonathan Vance
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada currently spends about one per cent of its GDP on defence, which is half the agreed-upon NATO target of two per cent and puts it in the bottom half among the allies.

Rather than increase defence spending, however, last week's federal budget saw the Liberal government delay hundreds of millions of dollars in planned equipment purchases by several years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Underfunding takes children from homes

British Columbia's Indigenous kids are being removed from their homes and placed in care because of underfunding from both provincial and federal governments, says the province's representative for children and youth.

Bernard Richard said current funding models mean agencies that support aboriginal families are unlikely to provide the same level of help compared with services at B.C.'s Ministry of Children and Family Development, resulting in a two-tiered system.

The province's confusing funding arrangements with 23 agencies delegated to help Indigenous families also result in inequitable services for children depending on where they live, he said Thursday after re-



Removing children from their homes has a devastating effect.

Office of Indian Affairs
Minister Carolyn Bennett

leasing a report on problems with service delivery.

The report quoted a ministry plan saying an Indigenous child is nearly 17 times more likely to be in care compared with a non-Indigenous child.

"The fact that 62 per cent of the kids in care are Indigenous in a province where they represent less than 10 per cent of the child population is unacceptable," Richard said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FOCUS ON FAMINE

DAY 5: Nigeria



Women and young girls wash clothes while others collect water in one of the hosting communities for internally displaced people in Maiduguri, Nigeria. Women and children have suffered most from the Boko Haram insurgency. Many of them are suffering from food insecurity and a lack of clean water and medical care. GETTY IMAGES

Situation not 'unsolvable'

United Nations warns that more than five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe are facing a food emergency



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The trip was meant to instill some hope in an otherwise dire environment. Instead, it left Nene Akinten with serious concerns about the future.

"It was a very bad situation, but I could tell it was going to get worse," said Akinten, an Oakville resident originally from Nigeria.

Last year she teamed up with members of Relief International Nigeria Women in Diaspora to collect donations for the country's internally displaced people. With her three kids and a few other members, they visited four camps and spent days tutoring children and interacting with people who had fled both the Boko Haram violence and starvation.

It was a "gloomy" experience, said Akinten. Malnutrition was rampant. Subsisting on

donations, no one could afford three meals a day. She heard people were already dying from lack of food in the northeastern states.

A year later, her fears have been confirmed. The United Nations has warned over five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe face a food emergency, and famine could break out by June. Insecurity is a big part of the problem, as close to two million residents have been forced out of their



Nene Akinten, centre in green, visited four camps last year as part of an effort to help those affected by food shortages in northeast Nigeria. CONTRIBUTED

BY THE NUMBERS | FAMINE IN NIGERIA

\$99.9 million / **\$1.1 billion**
Total funds raised so far / Funds required to avert a famine



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The number of people who are currently food insecure in northeastern Nigeria

SOURCE: UN OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS



50,000

Number of people predicted to be suffering from famine by June

households and can no longer work on farming.

"If you don't die from hunger then these Boko Haram people will kill you. It's crazy," said Mustapha Daodu, an Edmonton-based reggae musician. Some of his family members still live in Borno, and he regularly sends money to support them.

"I'm really worried this whole famine will spread to the rest of the country very soon," he added.

Katherine Clark, who recently returned from a four-month assignment with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in northeast Nigeria, said the conflict has damaged infrastructure and made it difficult for people to access humanitarian aid.

"These aren't unsolvable problems," she said of the malnutrition and poor hygiene in camps. "People are healthy again after they're assisted. I don't think anybody should really go hungry in the world today."

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Metro is chronicling the story through the lens of immigrants from the affected countries, with a focus on how people can get involved.

Monday Vicky Mochama on how Canada can step up its interventions.

Tuesday Focus on Somalia, and how this could be worse than 2011.

Wednesday Yemen, and the role of war in the ongoing famine.

Thursday The situation in South Sudan, the world's youngest country.

Friday Nigeria, with views from diaspora members and an expat.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Nigerian-Canadians across the country are leading efforts to collect funds.

Relief International Nigeria Women in Diaspora continues to co-ordinate relief efforts for those affected by the food shortage. Contact akintanfamily@gmail.com for more information.

MSF-Canada provides medical and humanitarian assistance to people in the four states and other parts of northern Nigeria. More at msf.ca

Action Against Hunger runs emergency food and nutrition programs in northern Nigeria and other countries facing famine. More at actioncontrelafaim.ca

World Vision is the biggest implementing partner of the World Food Program in East Africa. Private donations can be made at worldvision.ca

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A Republican name game

Those on the right seem to think Trump is doing fine, problems are someone else's fault

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

It was revealed, as U.S. President Donald Trump's kindergarten collage of a health-care bill collapsed last week under the warm reception of a toenail-clippings sandwich, that many Trump voters have an unusual malady.

They cannot comprehend that one bill could have two names. Many, upon hearing that the Republicans were going to repeal the Affordable Care Act and strip them of access to expanded Medicaid last week, balked. You see, they thought it was Obamacare that was supposed to get the heave-ho. They didn't realize they were the same thing.

Let's give a round of applause for Fox News. The natural home of the Republican party and anti-Obamacare sentiment.

The network synonymous with sexual assault lawsuits might be viewed among some Canadians as an unfortunate

quirk of the U.S. media landscape, a bit of discolouring on an otherwise perfectly serviceable dress.

It is not.

Or rather, Fox News is the acid spew that threatens to ruin the entire thing: It is the most-watched news network in the U.S., and growing. The Los Angeles Times reported in late December that year-end numbers showed that "Fox News Channel was the most-watched network in all of cable with an average of 2.43 million viewers in prime time, up 36 per cent over last year."

Certainly, there's a distinction to be made between the thousands of local news reporters and programs, and the national news reporting teams, and people like Bill O'Reilly, the grubby-faced Fox News star.

But it is O'Reilly's brand of ... loyalty, to use Trump's favourite word, that currently characterizes the American right. This week, the president faced the kind of approval ratings you'd reserve mostly

for people who don't pick up after their dogs: 36 per cent by March 24, according to Gallup.

Among Republicans, however, his support is soaring around the 90 per cent mark, down only 5 per cent week-to-week after the health-care bill flopped.

To recap: The president with an historically low overall approval rating is doing just fine, according to his base, according to polls. Certainly, we know enough at this point not to take polling at the same face value that you reserve for your tarot cards, but the sentiment — that some Trump voters believe he's doing a good job, and everything wrong in his first few months is someone else's fault — has been borne out by reporting. When radio-God-among-us Tom Ashbrook took his call-in show to Miami in mid-March, an older man who voted for Trump put it this way: "If (the democrats) allow him to do what he has in mind, he may be one of the best presidents in terms



U.S. President Donald Trump reacts with Secretary Tom Price and Vice President Mike Pence after Republicans abruptly pulled their health-care bill from the House floor on March 24. GETTY IMAGES

of bringing the economy back like it's supposed to be, that we've ever had."

Meanwhile, Breitbart News is gunning for Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, publishing every bad bit of news they can

find on the GOP bill under the banner of "RyanCare."

At this rate, Trump might end up becoming the only president ever impeached, whilst entirely innocent. According to some.

Global digest

GERMANY Far-right urges supporters to infiltrate police

A far-right party is urging its supporters to join the police force in the German state of Saxony to obtain information about migrants accused of committing crimes.

SYRIA Number of Syrian refugees tops 5 million mark

The number of Syrians who have fled their country has surpassed the 5-million mark, the UNHCR said Thursday.

UNITED STATES Judge extends order

A U.S. judge in Hawaii is keeping U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban on hold while the state's lawsuit works its way through the courts.

Pentagon gets OK for more aggressive airstrikes

U.S. President Donald Trump has granted the U.S. military more authority to go after al-Qaida linked militants in Somalia, approving a request to allow more aggressive airstrikes,

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fresh beef coming off McDonald's grill in 2018

FOOD

Chain says it will still serve frozen meat for Big Macs

Coming soon to McDonald's: Fresh beef.

The fast food giant said Thursday that it will swap frozen beef patties for fresh ones in its Quarter Pounder burgers by sometime next year at most of its U.S. locations. It's a major change for McDonald's, which has relied on frozen beef for more than 40 years. Employees will cook up the never-frozen beef on a grill when burgers are ordered.

"It's a really hot, juicy burger," said McDonald's USA President Chris Kempczinski.

Fresh beef has been the biggest selling point at rival Wendy's. Yet there are larger forces at work that have prompted other menu changes at McDonald's, known for decades more for the billions of people served than its culinary choices. The world's largest hamburger chain has been trying to improve its image as more people shun processed foods.

"Fresh, just as a word and a concept, still carries so much



McDonald's says it will swap frozen beef patties for fresh ones in its Quarter Pounder burgers by sometime in 2018 at most of its U.S. locations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

weight for customers," said Robert Byrne, the senior manager of consumer insights at Technomic, a food industry market research firm. He believes the move to fresh beef will likely drive more people to the Golden Arches and help boost its image slightly.

Big Macs and other hamburg-

Fresh, just as a word and concept still carries so much weight.

Robert Byrne

ers will still be made with frozen beef. But Kempczinski said McDonald's is open to making changes to more of its menu items.

The Oak Brook, Illinois-based company said fresh beef Quarter Pounders will be available by the middle of 2018 at most of its 14,000 U.S. locations. Res-

taurants in Alaska, Hawaii and some airports won't be getting the fresh beef, the company said.

While the announcement drew wide attention, McDonald's shares were little changed Thursday, up less than 1 per cent to close at \$129.32.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAW SUIT

Airbus allegedly negligent in crash

Airbus's negligence contributed to a crash landing at Halifax Stanfield International Airport two years ago, Air Canada claims in a lawsuit against the French aircraft manufacturer.

In a statement of claim filed in Nova Scotia Supreme Court, Air Canada said Airbus SAS failed to identify shortcomings of the Airbus 320. The document said it did not advise that in certain conditions, the plane's flight path angle could be affected by external forces. It also claims Airbus failed to incorporate a warning system to alert pilots to a deviation from the planned flight path.

"(Airbus) failed to provide adequate and/or accurate information as to how pilots should correct a deviation in the flight path in circumstances where manual intervention was required," the March 28 claim said.

None of the allegations have been proven.

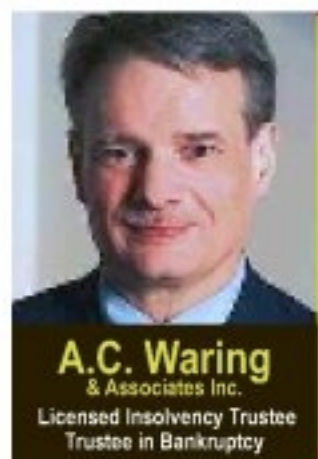
The statement of claim does not specify an amount for damages, but says: "(Air Canada) pleads that (Airbus) was negligent and that its negligence caused or contributed to the damages claimed."

"Damages claimed herein include the damage sustained by the aircraft and other expenses related to the subject incident," it said.

Airbus did not return a request for comment Thursday and has not filed a statement of defence. Air Canada declined to comment.

Flight 624 hit the ground about 200 metres short of runway 05 shortly after midnight on March 29, 2015, as it approached in gusty winds and heavy snowfall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter eases 140-character limit in replies

Twitter has found more creative ways to ease its 140-character limit without officially raising it. Now, the company says that when you reply to someone — or to a group — usernames

will no longer count toward those 140 characters. This will be especially helpful with group conversations, where replying to two, three or more users at a time could be especially difficult with the character constraints.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sherry Dostaler

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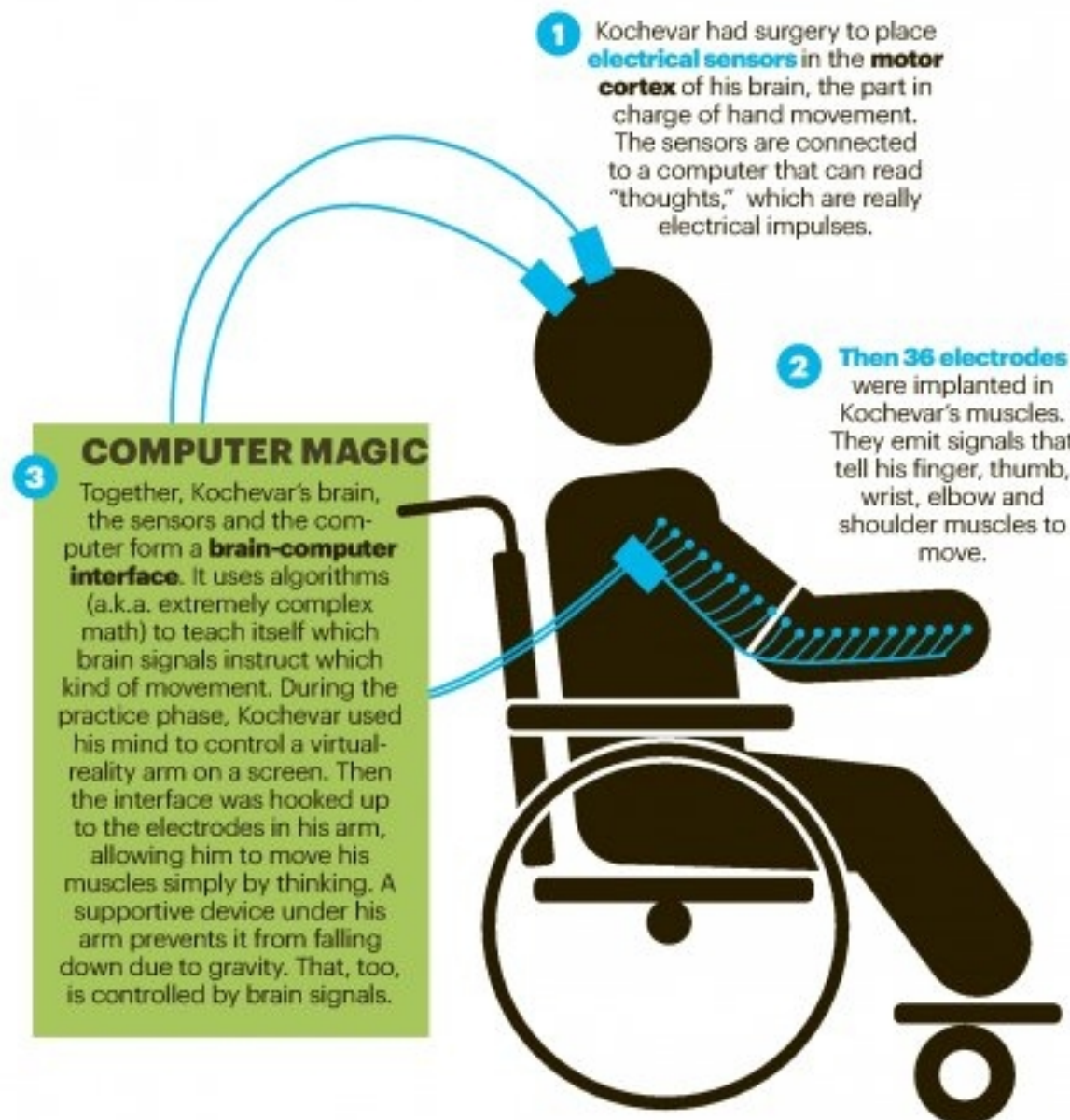
Roaring back? Two credible sightings have scientists out looking for the Tasmanian tiger, believed extinct since 1936



DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

MOVING HIS HAND WITH HIS MIND

Eight years ago, Bill Kochevar's bicycle collided with the back of a mail truck and his life changed forever. He was paralyzed from the tops of his shoulders down. But now his hand can reach and grasp again. He can feed himself and sip a cup of coffee. And he does it exactly the same way able-bodied people do: Intuitively, just by thinking about it.



REACHING FOR THE FUTURE



This one-person study, published this week in the journal *The Lancet*, is the first time brain sensors and muscle electrodes have been used at the same time to restore reaching and grasping movements to a person with complete paralysis. The technology is not ready for use outside the lab, but that hasn't quelled Kochevar's enthusiasm. He said, "I'm still wowed every time I do something. I ate a pretzel. I drank water."

FINDINGS Your week in science



PLAYING CHICKEN WITH JUPITER

It's name is BeeZed, and it's one gutsy little asteroid. A new University of Western Ontario study found the object is orbiting the sun in the opposite direction of other asteroids in its neighbourhood (picture a car driving the wrong way down the highway, with 6,000 cars coming in the other direction), and its path takes it very close to Jupiter. But it hasn't collided because it's thrown off, thankfully, by the giant planet's gravity.

SOUND SMART



DEFINITION

Epigenetics is the study of how genes are switched on and off. You can't change the genetic code you inherited from your parents. But your environment can change how genes are expressed.

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Carlos's identical twin is a faster runner and has a higher IQ than him. They have the same genetic code, so those differences are probably due to **epigenetics**.

PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

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CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Famine isn't over when it's over

Twenty million people are at risk of starvation as famines sweep Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan.

Canadians, richly blessed as we are, should be giving more than our fair share to help stop the suffering — for the sake of the victims, their children and even their grandkids.

That's because when the immediate crisis passes, it won't actually be in the past. An emerging body of science shows starvation leaves invisible scars, layered on the genes of famine victims.

Starvation and nutrient deficiency profoundly alter our body chemistry, including by disturbing the precisely regulated process of turning particular genes on and off at particular times. This DNA on/off switch is called **methylation** — a process of sticking certain molecules onto genes to change their function.

We don't exactly know why methylation gets messed up during starvation, but we've seen the results: Poor health outcomes among people who live through famine. It's especially acute for

children whose mothers were starved during pregnancy. And those changes can be passed on. Tragically, history has left researchers with no shortage of natural experiments.

Children who were in the womb during the Dutch Hunger Winter of 1944-1945 grew up to have higher risk of heart disease, obesity and schizophrenia. Their children were more likely to be born too small, yet grew up to suffer disproportionately from obesity.

Children of mothers who lived

through China's calamitous 1959-1961 famine suffer from hyperglycemia at double the normal rate. The same is true of their children. Research on victims of the 1974-1975 famine in Bangladesh suggests this effect may be due to methylation of the PAX8 gene, which regulates the thyroid and is involved in metabolism.

I could go on. But do you really need another reason to support famine relief?

Science Question?

genna.buck@metronews.ca



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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Look who's baby-talking now



Miles Bakshi lends his voice to Tim, while Alec Baldwin voices the titular Boss Baby in the new Dreamworks animated film. DREAMWORKS ANIMATION VIA AP

NEW RELEASE

Alec Baldwin isn't the first to lend his voice to a newborn

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



In the movies anything is possible. Superheroes routinely save the earth, regular folks can afford to live in fancy New York apartments and infants can talk.

This weekend Alec Baldwin lends his distinctive, raspy voice to the title character of *The Boss Baby*. Based on a 36-page book by Marla Frazee, it's a feature length riff on *Look*

Who's Talking as imagined by Family Guy's Stewie Griffin.

"I may look like a baby but I was born all grown up," Boss Baby boasts as he drops into the Templeton family, upsetting only child Tim's carefree life. Wearing a suit onesie, BB carries a briefcase and speaks the language of the boardroom.

Seems he's from a purveyor of fine babies, a company that supplies tots via a chute. Those who giggle when tickled are placed with families, those who don't, like Boss Baby, are sentenced to a Kafka-esque, humourless life in BabyCorp management, kept infant-sized by special formula.

With lines like, "You know who else wears a diaper? Astronauts," Boss Baby has the movie's best speeches, expertly delivered by Baldwin

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Ghost in the Shell	★★★
The Boss Baby	★★★
The Zookeeper's Wife	★★★
Obit	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

but he's not the first talking baby to grace the big screen.

Leone LeDoux was an actor who, when she wasn't voicing Minnie Mouse in cartoons of the 1930s and 1940s, made a career out of supplying baby vocals for movies. Some, like her work in the short *Water Babies*, involved creating childlike sounds for on screen infants while others were more involved. In *The Reluctant Dragon* she gives voice to child genius Baby Weems.

"You're a quiet little fellow, aren't you?" coos the nurse.

"Well, there really isn't much to talk about," replies Weems.

Other movie babies have had more to say.

Amy Heckerling came up with the idea for the Citizen Kane of talking toddler movies, *Look Who's Talking*, when she and screenwriter husband Neal Israel were playing with their new baby. "My husband and I started to put words in her mouth...what she might

be thinking based on her expressions," she told the *Los Angeles Times*.

The playful game blossomed into a film starring Kristie Alley, John Travolta and Bruce Willis as the voice of talking newborn Mikey. Heckerling notes that Willis frequently went off script, improvising X-rated lines that couldn't be used in the film.

The movie gave Travolta's career a shot in the arm — he hadn't acted in five years — and started a talking baby trend in pop culture. The next year the sitcom *Baby Talk* starred the vocal stylings of Tony Danza as Baby Mickey, son of single mom Maggie.

More recently the baritone voiced E-Trade baby, frequently voiced by comedian Pete Holmes, looked to Heckerling's movie for inspiration.

From 2008 to 2014 Elayne Rapping, professor of American Studies at SUNY/Buffalo says the spokesbaby "humanized the whole business of trading. While other babies are just pictures, this one has a personality that is pure pop culture."

Finally, back on the big screen *Baby Geniuses* sees Kathleen Turner and Christopher Lloyd as scientists who think that babies are born knowing the secrets of the universe.

To learn those secrets they try to decode goo-goo-ga-ga baby talk. Roger Ebert put this movie on his "Most Hated" list and the *Stinkers* bad Movie Awards nominated Leo, Gerry and Myles Fitzgerald, the triplets who played Sly, the baby genius, as Worst Child Performer.



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The noble, familiar fight of The Zookeeper's Wife

WARTIME DRAMA

Based on a true story, film explores anti-Nazi war efforts

Antonina Zabinski has an idyllic life.

At the Warsaw zoo that she and her husband Jan run, she nurses lion cubs in her home and a young camel dutifully accompanies her as she bicycles on her daily rounds tending to the animals.

All that changes dramatically with the German invasion of Poland and the advent of the Second World War.

Based on a true story, *The Zookeeper's Wife* chronicles the couple's efforts to res-

cue Jews from the infamous Warsaw ghetto and to further risk their own lives by housing them secretly in a basement hideout.

"That's why I love animals so much. You look in their eyes and see exactly what's in their hearts," notes Antonina (played by Jessica Chastain).

Certainly, Antonina begins to see the worst in the human beings around her, personified in the form of Lutz Heck (Daniel Bruhl), the chief zoologist for the Nazi regime.

She reluctantly forms an uneasy relationship — one that hints of romance — when Heck nearly uncovers the presence of others in the family home. Inevitably, it causes strains in her marriage.

Director Niki Caro does



an able job of capturing the period detail and creating an atmosphere of tension and danger.

Chastain is an appealing protagonist, radiating an aura of determination in the face of uncertainty and adversity — and getting the Polish accent just right.

Johan Heldenbergh plays Jan with a quiet stoicism and strength and the relationship between the two is believable.

The weak link may be the performance of Bruhl as Heck, a character who's more oily than menacing, making him a less-than-persuasive villain.

The film details several key dates in the couple's years-long struggle but their significance won't always be clear to filmgoers without detailed historical knowledge.

History may in fact be the film's biggest challenge in drawing an audience. The period and the monstrous persecution and extermination of Europe's Jews have been covered extensively and memorably in so many other previous films.

While *The Zookeeper's Wife* is a reasonably accomplished work, it would be difficult to argue that it breaks new ground or offers a fresh perspective on those horrific times.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



The Zookeeper's Wife stars Jessica Chastain and Johan Heldenbergh and opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

“That's why I love animals so much. You look in their eyes and see exactly what's in their hearts.”

Antonina, played by Jessica Chastain

BOOK COMPETITIONS

Fifteen Dogs rules the pack at this year's Canada Reads

Andre Alexis's Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning novel *Fifteen Dogs* is the champion of this year's Canada Reads debate series.

The CBC's battle of the books sees high-profile panellists defending homegrown titles in a string of debates until a winner is declared.

Alexis's book, about 15 dogs gifted by gods with the skills of human consciousness and language, was named the winner on Thursday.

Spoken word artist and emcee Humble the Poet had advocated for the book in the debates.

The runner-up was *Company Town* by Madeline Ashby, which was defended by opera singer Measha Brueggergosman.

Other books in competition included *The Right to Be Cold: One Woman's Story of Protecting Her Culture, the Arctic and the Whole Planet*, by Sheila Watt-Cloutier, which was represented by singer-songwriter Chantal Kreviazuk.

Ottawa city councillor and author Jody Mitic supported *Nostalgia* by M.G. Vassanji, while comedian Candy Palmater backed *The Break* by



Author Andre Alexis' *Fifteen Dogs* won the 2015 Giller Prize and the 2015 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. CONTRIBUTED

Katherena Vermette.

This year's show explored stories about Canada's past, present and future as the country marks its 150th anniversary.

Fifteen Dogs publisher Coach House Books says in celebration of the win, it will make a donation to Frontier College's Indigenous Summer Literacy Camps for First Nation, Metis and Inuit children and

youth across Canada.

Earlier this month Alexis won a Yale University Windham-Campbell Prize, which comes with a cheque for \$165,000 US.

In 2015, the Trinidad and Tobago-born, Ottawa-raised writer also won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for *Fifteen Dogs*.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dennis Edwards &
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Scarlett Johansson plays a conflicted and butt-kicking cyborg in the new live-action take on manga/anime classic *Ghost in the Shell*. CONTRIBUTED

What's beneath the sexy surface

REVIEW

Casting saves live-action take on manga-anime classic

Anime exemplar *Ghost in the Shell* was a singular sensation in 1995, boldly anticipating the coming digital world even as it revisited old ideas of human minds inhabiting machine forms.

The new live-action take, starring Scarlett Johansson as a conflicted and butt-kicking cyborg, isn't quite so innovative. The film slavishly revisits not

only the original inspiration but such other sci-fi landmarks as *Blade Runner* and *Metropolis*, creating an unsettling feeling not unlike the "uncanny valley" effect more common to photorealistic animation.

With Rupert Sanders at the helm, a situation akin to his earlier *Snow White* and the *Huntsman* ensues. The picture looks great, with seamless CGI and artful imagery, but the committee-written screenplay is of artificial rather than intelligent design.

Casting saves the movie, notwithstanding the thorny issue of cultural appropriation. Johansson plays a character, known variously as Mira

and Major, who was originally drawn as Asian, right back to the 1989 manga that spawned what has become a multimedia franchise.

But talent trumps optics, as Tilda Swinton proved in *Doctor Strange*, and ScarJo has bona fides to spare: she honed her action chops in *The Avengers*, rocked alien animus in *Under the Skin* and clicked a computing mind in *She*.

Kudos, too, for an uncommonly good supporting cast. Juliette Binoche exudes empathy as not-so-mad scientist Dr. Ouelet, who refines the "cerebral salvage" technique that places the surviving brain of fatally injured Mira — victim

of a terrorist attack, she's told — into the curvaceous "shell" of super-soldier Major. She'll be joining the terrorist-fighting Section 9 unit of her Asian metropolis, where humans, machines and holograms jostle.

Mira/Major's male foils are macho yet still interesting: Denmark's Pilou Asbaek makes a mean sidekick Batou, despite sporting artificial peepers that regrettably recall *Little Orphan Annie*; Michael Pitt's brings an Island of Misfit Toys melancholy to his Kuze character, whose subterranean presence and slowly revealed motivations bring needed emotion; and Japanese actor/director "Beat" Takeshi Kitano makes

the most of very few words as the unbending Ministry of Defence official who controls Section 9.

All are in service, alas, of a story drawn from an Existentialism 101 course outline, wherein Mira/Major keeps trying to figure out how much of her is human, how much is machine and who's fooling who?

She keeps talking about how she's "the first of her kind," but that sounds even more derivative than it did in 1995. The conceit of a human mind inside of a mechanical body is almost as old as the movies, dating back to the Maria/Maschinenmensch dual character of Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*,

released in 1927.

Mira/Major's government and corporate overlords, of course, would prefer she concentrate more on doing than thinking. When she stops brooding and gets clobbering, she does so in spectacular fashion, taking on creeps that include a brain-sucking mechanical geisha and a humungous robot spider.

She does it all while dressed in a nude bodysuit that makes her look for all the world like a giant unclothed Barbie doll, an unnecessary concession to series fidelity. Then as now, it's about nothing more than fanboy titillation.

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Donnie Darko's return is welcome

ANALYSIS

Dystopian film starring Jake Gyllenhaal gets new VOD rollout

Peter Howell
For Metro Canada

Funny thing about doom 'n' gloom cinema: critics and regular moviegoers alike often sniff at fresh depictions of terrible things to come.

Time and politics — like the election of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency — can make even the bleakest of prophetic visions suddenly seem spot on.

Both Fritz Lang's urban dystopia Metropolis and Ridley Scott's Blade Runner, set in a drenched L.A. of 2019, were panned in their time but now hailed as masterpieces — they're referenced in this week's big opener, Ghost in the Shell — and sci-fi fans eagerly await Denis Villeneuve's Blade Runner 2049, a sequel due in October.

A number of movie theatres are about to screen Michael Radford's 1984, commemorating the start date of the story's anti-Big Brother protest by rebel worker Winston Smith. In all, 180 North

American art houses are participating in this act of artistic uprising, celebrating freedom of speech and protesting Trump's anti-art administration.

There is another revival soon to be screened: a new print of and renewed appreciation for Richard Kelly's Donnie Darko, one of the most overlooked of films in the dystopian and apocalyptic cinema canon.

The film is also getting a new VOD and Blu-ray rollout on April 18, wherein you can stare at Kelly's still-disturbing view of 1988 America. The movie, which premiered at Sundance in January 2001, anticipated the horrors of 9/11 just a few months later.

The family home of Jake Gyllenhaal's title character is struck by a fallen jet engine, part of the impending global devastation predicted by a giant rabbit named Frank, who is either Donnie's delusion or the weirdest of doomsayers. A book titled The Philosophy of Time Travel becomes significant to a movie that operates on more than one level of existence.

Here is a film that truly deserves a revival, especially since it never really got a first chance to make its mark. Donnie Darko barely made it off the launch pad in 2001 because its parallels to 9/11 — entirely accidental — seemed all too real. The movie was released that year in only

a handful of theatres.

Writer/director Kelly, 41, recalls the situation all too well when I contact him for an interview. Donnie Darko was his first feature.

"No one knew how to market Donnie Darko, because it was this unique blend of suburban comedy/drama/horror/science fiction," the Virginia filmmaker says.

Kelly doesn't feel any more inclined today than he did in

2001 to explain what Donnie Darko is about. Multiple interpretations are available online, and he's OK with that.

Viewing the film again recently, I was struck by the television images in it of George H.W. Bush and Michael Dukakis, candidates in the 1988 U.S. presidential election. Bush and Dukakis both look so presidential, unlike the current White House occupant.

Kelly agrees: "It's remarkable to think how our political

process has just deteriorated into this grotesque reality television spectacle. It's troubling and it's sad."

He hasn't directed a feature since the sci-fi thriller The Box in 2009 but he's "so ready to get back behind the camera" with a project he says he can't yet discuss.

If there is one take-home message from Donnie Darko, he wants it to be about creativity.

"I hope that this film can in-

spire people to take risks and to be original, and not to feel like you have to box yourself in to a genre or classification ... You can just be who you want to be, and tell a story without restriction and without suppression. We need to take risks now. We have a reality television monster in the White House."

One that is scarier than an apocalypse-predicting giant rabbit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES



Donnie Darko, which premiered in 2001, had eerie similarities to 9/11 and was only released in a handful of Canadian theatres. CONTRIBUTED



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Lack of women a sign of bigger issues says Brilla

MUSIC INDUSTRY

Singer wants to see a better balance in the industry

Alysha Brilla wasn't surprised by the lack of female representation when this year's Juno Awards nominees were announced.

Years ago, the Waterloo, Ont.-based musician and producer decided to conduct an experiment. She carefully tabulated the gender diversity among Juno nominees and found there wasn't much at all, particularly in the technical categories, which were completely dominated by men.

After scrolling through this year's list of contenders — the winners are announced this weekend in Ottawa — she concluded little has changed.



Musician Alysha Brilla. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOUR

Brilla points to data that shows only four women have won the producer award in the 45 years that Junos have been handed out; the engineer prize has never gone to a woman.

"I don't want to see women take over the industry. I want to see a balance," says Brilla, a two-time Juno nominee for best adult contemporary album.

Album categories including country, adult alternative,

francophone, classical, contemporary Christian, rap, R&B/soul and reggae all only have one female nominee each. Both the engineer and producer of the year categories don't have a single female nominee.

When Brilla raised the issue with Junos brass in the past the response she got shocked her.

Representatives said better diversity at the Junos would only happen if more women became members of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (CARAS).

"The woman on the phone said to me, 'We don't have a lot of female voters so if you could find us some, that would be great,'" Brilla remembers.

"So I went out and did the work. I solicited every woman I knew who was technically qualified — who works in the industry. I asked artist friends, asked production friends and brought back a couple to them."

She waited until the next year to see if her efforts made a difference in the list of Juno

nominees. They didn't, she says.

Sara Quin says the conversation motivated her to write letters to about 250 women in the industry. She plans to urge them to pay the CARAS membership fee, vote and "get more involved."

It's an initiative that sounds familiar to other prominent musicians.

"I did exactly what Sara did — last year," says Amy Millan, a member of Broken Social Scene and Stars.

"I wrote (Sarah) Harmer, Sarah Slean and Jenn Grant and I wrote all these women and said, 'Are you a member of CARAS?' Most of them came back and they said, 'No, because what's the point?'"

Millan doesn't exactly blame the Junos, but she doesn't think it's helping matters either.

She believes the awards show is emblematic of a bigger problem plaguing Canada's music industry and that women aren't getting a fair shake.

Last year, Millan drew attention to a lack of women among the 2016 Juno nominees with the

Twitter hashtag #JunosSoMale, a nod to the #OscarsSoWhite movement. It was quickly embraced by other musicians including electro-pop singer Grimes, who is nominated this year for three Junos including alternative album.

"I did not expect it to garner nationwide attention," Millan says. "It opened a floodgate of questions for all of us."

Her move also pushed the Junos to respond, with the organization's president saying the Junos are only mirroring the broader music industry.

"We simply reflect what comes to us, what's submitted," says Allan Reid, president of CARAS and the Junos.

Putting the blame on CARAS voters doesn't necessarily make sense either. Overall its membership is 42 per cent female, he notes. Instead, the problem is reflected more clearly in who submits their work to the Junos, Reid argues.

This year, only nine women put their names in for producer of the year among 118 contenders, he says. That's little changed from last year when women represented seven of 119 submissions, either solo or as part of a team.

Winners for the production category are voted on by active members of the Canadian music producer community who are also CARAS members.

Reid believes there are bigger questions surrounding why more women don't submit to the technical categories.

Brilla scoffs at the sentiment that women aren't interested in technical work. She believes responsibility lies with the music industry, which she says does little to encourage young women to pursue fields traditionally reserved for men.

"Women aren't making money behind the scenes," she says. "They're often the ones simply fronting the whole operation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bring on the big budget blockbusters

Wonder Woman shines as summer sizzlers hit CinemaCon

1 Wonder Woman (June 2)

Wonder Woman is here to save the world, and, possibly the future of Warner Bros. DC Comics universe.

New footage featuring actress Gal Gadot's lasso-wielding superhero stole the show Wednesday night at CinemaCon, which also featured some peeks at Aquaman and Justice League.

It also marked Ben Affleck's first public appearance since acknowledging he'd recently completed rehab for alcohol addiction.

But it was Wonder Woman's show, even though Gadot wasn't in Las Vegas.

The sepia-soaked extended clips highlighted the World War I espionage thrills as Diana/Wonder Woman adjusts to life with mortals.

2 Dunkirk (July 21)

A propeller stops midair. Soldiers packed like sardines on a pier cower in fear of an unseen threat.

Those are the images Christopher Nolan left CinemaCon audiences hanging onto as he premiered new footage from Dunkirk, his long-awaited epic about the storied World War II evacuation.

Nolan told the audience of theatre owners that he wanted to tell the story in the most visceral way possible, putting audiences on the beaches, in the air and running with the troops.

The Interstellar and Dark Knight director

shot the film entirely on large format celluloid and said theatres are the only way to experience the suspenseful survival story.

3 The Mummy (June 9)

Universal Pictures is going back to its roots — monsters.

The studio debuted footage from its upcoming adventure film The Mummy, which opens a monster universe drawing on Universal's vault of classic properties like Bride of Frankenstein, Invisible Man and Creature from the Black Lagoon.

Tom Cruise and Russell Crowe star in the Alex Kurtzman-directed The Mummy, which is equal parts action and horror as Cruise's explorer Nick Morton attempts to combat an ancient evil that has been unlocked and threatens to destroy the world.

Kurtzman and the cast, including Boutella, Annabelle Wallis and Jake Johnson, discussed Cruise's famous commitment to eye-popping stunts.

"I think I was brought onto this movie to be afraid to do stunts with Tom Cruise," Johnson said. "Tom does it all and he makes his co-stars do it too. And I do mean 'make.'"

Cruise, who is on location for a shoot, delivered a video message to the audience. "To usher in a new age of gods and monsters is something that makes me very proud and excited."

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Producer on rise as one of music's hottest hit-makers

Whenever Mike Will Made-It receives any praise for his work on Beyoncé's anthemic *Formation*, he thinks about all of the people who doubted he would ever work with the Grammy-winning pop star.

"Back then, I was like, 'Man I could do something crazy for Beyoncé.' But they was like, '... Beyoncé don't be working with just anybody bro,'" he recalled. "Now, I'm to the point where I'm face-to-face with Beyoncé in the studio, and all that plays in my head."

"It's basically not letting anyone tell you what you can't do."

Mike Will stayed true to the advice his father gave him a long time ago — to remove "can't" from his vocabulary. It has helped him reach his goals as a producer and songwriter, and craft hits like Rihanna's *Pour It Up*, Juicy J's *Bandz a Make Her Dance* and Miley Cyrus' *We Can't Stop*. He also executive produced Cyrus' *Bangerz*, her 2013 album that pushed her to full-blown pop star status, and he has produced for Kanye West, Lil Wayne, Nicki Minaj and more.

But last year Mike Will saw his biggest success as he co-produced and co-wrote Beyoncé's *Formation*, which earned him, and Beyoncé, Grammy nominations for song and record of the year.

He also produced Rae Sremmurd's *Black Beatles*, which reached the No. 1 spot on the *Billboard* Hot 100 for seven weeks.



Mike Will Made-It has really made it after the producer saw major success co-producing Beyoncé's *Formation*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

They was like, 'Beyoncé don't be working with just anybody bro.' Now, I'm to the point where I'm face-to-face with Beyoncé in the studio.
Mike Will

Why there's no *can't* in Mike Will's vocabulary

The song, featuring Gucci Mane, became so popular that it often served as background music to the viral Mannequin Challenge, where people acted motionless while the camera scans them.

Despite the skeptics, Atlanta-raised Mike Will has really made it.

"Everybody was against him," said Swae Lee of Rae Sremmurd, the rap duo that includes his brother Slim Jxmmi (the group is signed Mike Will's Ear Drummer Records).

"But he stays locked in on the art," Swae Lee continued. "He's focused on his craft."

He's not worried about no one else. Today, he's like one of the greats in the industry."

Now, Mike Will has taken the next step as a producer: He released his debut album, *Ransom 2*, last week — a day after his 28th birthday. The album features Kendrick Lamar, Rihanna, Big Sean

and Young Thug.

"He'll take a small idea and make it into a big one," Slim Jxmmi said of Mike Will. "I've seen him take one of my freestyles and make a whole entire song out of it. ... Mike has this knack for putting it all together into a big song."

A freestyle is actually what

led to *Formation*.

When Swae Lee blurted out, "OK ladies, let's get in formation," during a car ride to the Coachella music festival, Mike Will knew he had something.



Everybody was against him. But he stays locked in on the art.

Swae Lee,
of Rae Sremmurd

"Swae Lee might have a laundry list of voice notes, but never records the song," the producer said. "But I told him we got to record this. In my mind, I'm thinking we're going to get this to Beyoncé. I'm thinking about it being a woman empowerment song like *Single Ladies*."

Working on *Formation* forced Mike Will to push back his own album, but also gave him time to hone his sound and tweak the songs.

"I wanted to drop an album I feel good about, that I feel strong about," he said of *Ransom 2*, the follow-up to *Ransom*, his 2014 mixtape.

"Ever since I started doing mixtapes, it's always been a dream for me to release an album. Like how Timbaland had everybody on his album."

And like Timbaland, Mike Will has a goal of producing for more A-list acts, including Adele.

He said he spoke with the British singer's manager about working on her 25 comeback album, but it never panned out.

"I feel like we can come together and do a song that's never been heard of," he said.

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ANALYSIS

More Life is the soundtrack to an evolving music industry

Joe Callaghan
For Metro | Toronto

The great and the good of Canadian music will gather this weekend in the nation's capital and vie for Album of the Year Junos — 25 of them, to be exact.

We shouldn't be surprised that with so many genres to trundle through, it takes two full days for the Juno Awards to run their annual course.

The exhaustive list of contenders for various album honours is all the more impressive given the most perplexing question facing today's music industry: do we even know what an album is any more?

The 2017 Junos take place at a time when the country's Billboard Album Chart isn't even topped by an album. Drake's *More Life* was released March 18 and immediately went in at No. 1.

But Canada's hip hop king insists the 22-track collection is not an album. Nor is it another mixtape (to go with the four of those that he's already released). Instead *More Life*, fittingly for the streaming era, is a playlist. And it's a hell of a playlist.

More Life is an expansive, expressive journey that won quick critical acclaim and further cemented the Toronto rapper's status as a visionary talent. But through that vision, Drake continues to blur



“

The idea of the playlist, I think he's trying to gesture towards something more intimate, more personal.

Professor Mark Campbell on *More Life*



the lines.

"The idea of an album is something that's a relic, right?" says Mark Campbell, a professor in the school of media at Ryerson University and the founding director of Northside Hip Hop Archive, a digital anthology of Canadian hip hop history and culture.

"It's something that's not relevant to young people today. But Drake continually

pushes up against this idea of an album — his mixtapes, now his playlists. I think it's because he senses that his audience needs to be engaged in a different way. It's really only people like me who are 35 or 40-plus who are actually interested in hearing a cohesive album."

The death of the album has been declared on an all too regular basis since the dawn of digital music. Drake's own 2015 release *If You're Reading This It's Too Late* was a mixtape that ended up being nominated for a Grammy. Kanye West's *The Life of Pablo* was "a living, breathing creative expression."

Critics pointed to

both as signalling the official end of the traditional album.

Last year's industry statistics sum up just how altered the music environment is in the streaming age.

In Canada alone, more songs were streamed per day (97M) than were purchased over the entire year (75M.) Total album sales for 2016 (including physical copies, downloads and streams) reached 43.3M but that figure was dwarfed by the 22.3BN total audio streams, according to the in-depth report by BuzzAngle Music.

"The industry didn't really take the album as an artform seriously probably until the mid 1960s with the Beatles and the Stones and the Summer of Love," Eric Alper, veteran music publicist and analyst, told Metro. "But if you take a look at the superstar artists of today — the Weeknd, Drake, Justin Bieber, Alessia Cara, Shawn Mendes — it's all about the single. It's all about what song are we going to put out now."

It's an environment in which the album as once known by baby boomers and Gen X seems almost quaint.

This summer in Canada U2

will kick off a worldwide stadium tour in honour of the 30th anniversary of their flagship album, *The Joshua Tree*.

But with *More Life* Drake may also be harking back in his own way — to the golden age of the hip hop mixtape — to stay ahead.

"In one way he's trying to gesture himself forward as someone who is relatable to kids that may have never physically purchased music in their life," says Campbell. "Kids of 17, 18 years old who would never have had the experience of buying a CD."

By calling it a playlist, Drake is branding it as something intimate or personal, Campbell adds.

"When Obama has a playlist

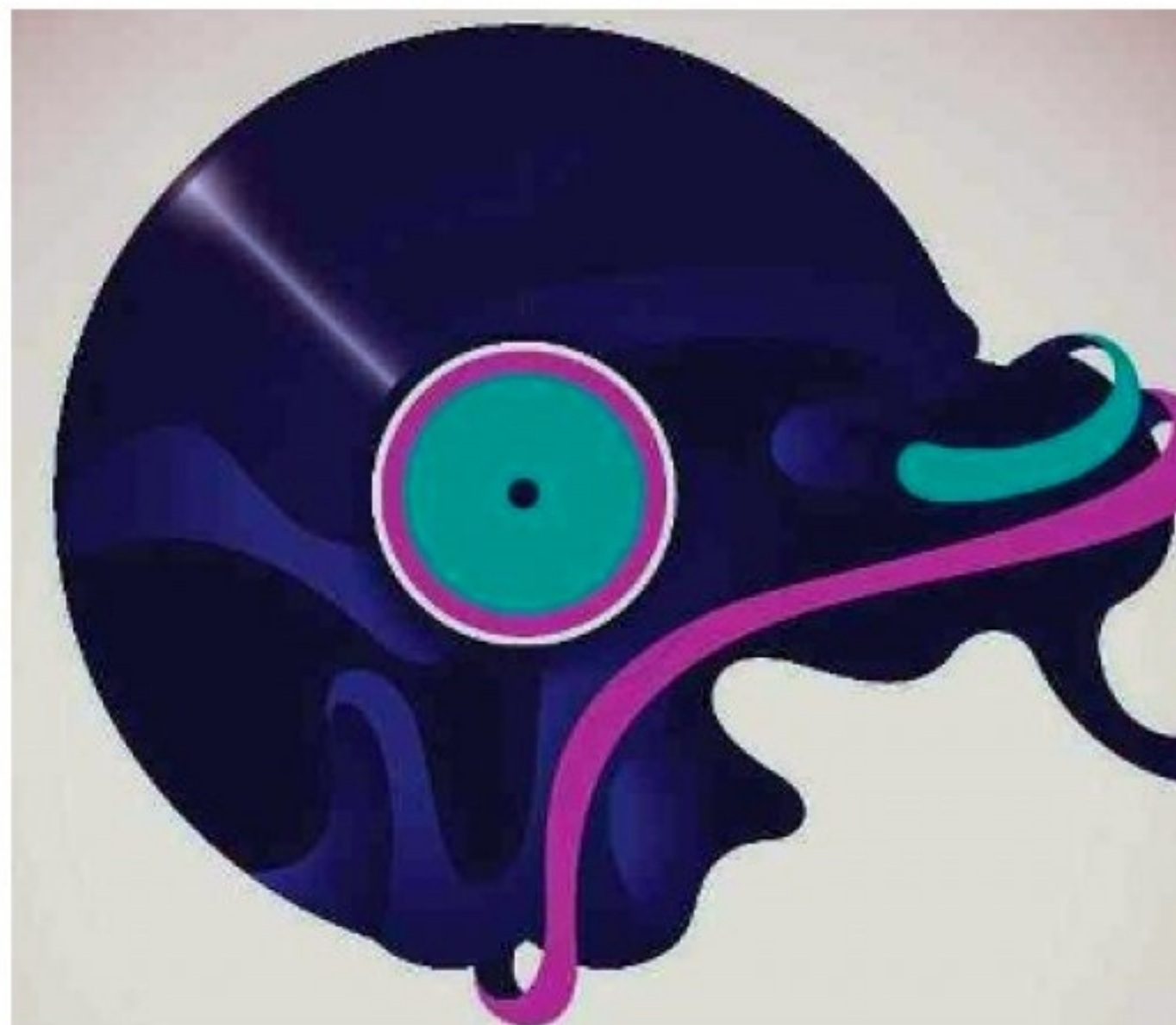
on Spotify, it tells you everything we need to know about the era that we're living in. People are so detached from each other digitally that we have to find new ways to reconnect. A playlist is a way to do it. Just like the mixtape was."

Alper concurs on Drake's ability to dictate where the curve turns next. He also argues that we shouldn't get so hung up on definitions but instead embrace the organic meaning of an album and celebrate this era of mass consumption.

"Music has never been more consumed, more watched, more talked about at any other time in its history. For \$10 I can have access to every single song in recorded history — that's a brilliant thing."

In that context, listeners get to decide what to call a collection of songs, and that means definitions are likely to change again, Alper says.

"So (the album) is whatever the artist wants it to be and it's whatever the fan thinks that it is. We just want to make sure that artists continue to get paid and we have great music at our fingertips."



Has Drake killed off the album, again?

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97 million

The average number of songs streamed daily in Canada far exceeds the number of songs purchased over the whole year (75 million), according to BuzzAngle Music statistics.

Going up against Drake, meet Tasha the Amazon

JUNO AWARDS

Daring rapper is confident heading into Junos Sunday

If her name didn't already announce her larger-than-life power, Tasha the Amazon's music videos would surely do the trick. With a series of gritty backdrops suitable for '80s action flick shootouts, Tasha the Amazon has wielded a flamethrower, liaised with a tiger and, in Cry of the Warrior, stalked alligators knee-deep in the lush muck of the Everglades.

Making that last one was "pretty much free, but not really safe," the Toronto rapper-producer explains. She flew out to Florida with a couple creative cohorts, trudged to the swamp area where the gators were known to prowl, and ducked the park rangers who would have promptly thrown them out. Then, while her director Colin G. Cooper filmed one of the

creatures from a few feet away, her production partner Danthrax held the back of Cooper's sweater, ready to yank backward if the creature attacked.

This is Tasha the Amazon's idea of a safety net.

"If you don't have money, you have to have brass balls to do these things," she recalled. "I think a lot of times people hold themselves back based on irrational fears. That's totally not my personality."

With a groundswell of buzz and ever-bigger stages looming for her, that kind of tenacity is serving Tasha well. But for someone who's at ease around a four-metre reptile, how imposing could some industry soiree really be?

She's just back from a personal-best South by Southwest in which she stacked up showcases like The Price is Right, at one point living up to her rep as a rowdy party-starter by doling out gulps of vodka directly into her audience's mouths. The Texas trip came a few days after a performance in Mexico, where Tasha was shocked to discover

a growing following.

And in days, she's off to Ottawa for the Juno Awards, where she's nominated for rap recording of the year (for last year's Die Every Day) against the heavyweight likes of Drake, Tory Lanez, Jazz Cartier and Belly. Daunting? Not for Tasha, especially since she's confident she deserves their company.

With only a scattering of solo singles released prior, Tasha the Amazon took off last year. Her razor-edged raps and fidgety subterranean beats gained attention abroad as an atypical act from Toronto, someone more interested in tossing sonic bombs than exploring the moody hues of Drake's OVO crew.

Now, her YouTube and Spotify

streams are deep into six figures, and a Spotify study revealed that her infectious cracked Picasso Leaning — a simultaneously joyful and doleful song about getting wasted — was the most-streamed rap song of 2016 in Toronto (not including Drake, that is).

"We just put it out one morning, and four days later we had 100,000 spins," she recalled. "We're an independent team. It's not like we have big major-label bucks behind us."

This is what she's wanted since she was a kid. Born Natasha Schumann to German and Jamaican parents, she was raised by her grandparents in Kitchener-Waterloo.

"My family obviously didn't have a ton of money, with my grandparents raising me and my brother on their retirement fund, but we were both smart, talented kids."

So she began training classical piano around age 8, eventually picking up saxophone, guitar and bass as a way to "stay out of trouble for a minute."

She wound up going to the



Tasha the Amazon is up against Drake, Tory Lanez, Jazz Cartier and Belly at the Junos. CONTRIBUTED

University of Toronto for psychology research, while at the same time indulging in 12-hour beat-making sessions.

"I went to university mostly because I was trying to convince myself not to do music," she said. Fortunately, it didn't work.

Back then, she used to cre-

ate vision boards laying out her future. It's safe to say her ambitions have only grown since; after all, what Amazon would have use for low ceilings?

"This is a labour of love," she said. "I want music to be a lifelong kind of thing."

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This is a labour of love. I want music to be a lifelong kind of thing.

Tasha the Amazon

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Sasheer Zamata says her act and voice has become more political and biting, compared to before SNL where she says she was "more cute." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Sasheer Zamata finds her voice in new show

INTERVIEW

Pizza Mind debuts on the Internet platform Seeso

Some believe you haven't really made it in comedy until you've landed a one-hour stand-up special. If that's true, then Saturday Night Live writer and comedian Sasheer Zamata has officially made it.

Zamata, a former member of the Upright Citizens Brigade who plays a mean Beyonce and Rihanna on NBC's SNL, debuts her first special, *Pizza Mind*, on the Internet platform Seeso on Thursday. The Associated Press sat down with the 30-year-old funny woman to ask about her special, her sketch skills and why you shouldn't ask her to

"do Beyonce."

You were hired to appear on SNL in 2014 in the wake of criticism of a lack of ethnic diversity. It was all very public. How did you handle that?

That stressed me out. I kind of just stayed at home a lot. People knew too much. People would text me and be like, 'What's the process like?' 'What's Lorne Michaels like?' I was like, 'This shouldn't even be your business.'

How have the last few years been on SNL?

As a writer and a performer, I'm definitely evolving because I'm learning the language of the show more and learning how to fit my voice into the mould that they've already created.

What about outside the

show?

My actual act and voice has become more political and biting. I feel like before SNL I was more cute and maybe I'd beat around the bush. Now I'm very direct.

What was a favourite sketch you wrote this season?

The Stranger Things sketch that happened in the fall, where parents come and snatch a character from the woods. That came from a real thought. I was watching Stranger Things — I ate it up; immediately I was a fan — but the whole time I was watching, I was like, 'My parents would FLIP if I was in the woods running around looking for monsters.' I was like, 'Where are his parents? Why aren't they concerned?'

In it, you make fun of stran-

gers who come up and demand impressions from you. Does it really bug you?

I just joke about it. It doesn't bother me that much. But anyone asking someone to do an impression on command or tell a joke on command is asking for it. I'm not a dog.

You rock your natural hair. Have you had any pressure to look a certain way?

I am really glad that no one told me to change my hair. Since I've been doing comedy, my hair has been an Afro. I've never had anyone be like, 'You need to straighten it' or 'Could you wear a wig?' or anything like that and I think that's really cool. I'm glad people get to see me look the way I do because it's good to have representation in different areas and looks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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REALITY COMPETITION

Noted food critic finally shows his face in Top Chef TV debut

Chris Nuttall-Smith has ditched his spy-like lifestyle built on disguises, fake names and temporary phone numbers.

As a judge on *Top Chef Canada: All-Stars*, kicking off Sunday on Food Network Canada, he's making his TV debut and introducing himself to viewers across the country — a stark contrast to the anonymity he worked hard to preserve for the past 10 years as an influential food critic, first with *Toronto Life* magazine and then the *Globe and Mail*.

"It was time to start doing something else," said Nuttall-Smith, who is no longer a food critic with the *Globe* but still writes for various publications, including *Air Canada's enRoute* magazine.

"That's a lot of going out, a lot of eating, a lot of responsibility and dealing sometimes with restaurateurs who aren't happy. I'd been approached about doing TV quite a few times, but *Top Chef* in particular really grabbed me."

Chef and restaurateur Mark McEwan is back as head judge for the fifth instalment of *Top Chef Canada*. Also returning are all-star chefs from previous seasons, who are competing for a \$100,000 grand prize and kitchen appliances valued at over \$25,000.

Nuttall-Smith and the other judges (Mijune Pak and Janet Zuccarini) are new to the fran-



Chris Nuttall-Smith spent the past 10 years as an influential food critic.

FOOD NETWORK CANADA

chise, as is host Eden Grinshpan.

"There were a couple of competitors who I had reviewed their restaurants poorly in the past," admitted Nuttall-Smith. "I think it was hard for them, it was a little awkward for me."

Nuttall-Smith said he loved having a direct connection with the show's chefs he was critiquing and watching their cooking process unfold on the fly.

By contrast, as an anonymous food critic, Nuttall-Smith never looked anyone in the

eyes when he was dining out. He didn't want chefs to recognize him or go over to ask how his meal was. He just wanted to be treated like a regular diner and not get special treatment.

To achieve such a goal, he had to resort to trickery: change his hairstyle or eyeglasses, make reservations under different names and numbers, and get his friends to arrive at a restaurant before him to ensure they'd get a regular table and server.

Those who dined with Nuttall-Smith also had to abide by certain rules — not that they always remembered to stick to them.

"My wife, for instance, God bless her, she's the nicest woman on Earth, but she was horrible to go out with because she's so indiscreet," he said with a laugh.

"It would usually take about 10 minutes before she'd blurt out my first and last names at the table."

For all his efforts, some restaurateurs were onto him.

"When the Momofuku company opened in Toronto, and this was early on when I was at the *Globe*, I heard that they had photos of me that they'd taken with their security system and they'd blown them up and put them in the stairwell, which made me really, really unhappy," said Nuttall-Smith.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The *chill* of the chase

ADVENTURE

A man's race to see all 46 parks in Canada's 150th year

John Honderich
For Metro Canada



Winter, as it turns out, is a spectacular time to visit Canada's national parks.

You just have to be prepared to navigate through periodic snow blasts, gale force winds, an avalanche warning here and there, and icy roads. But the rewards are nothing short of breathtaking, particularly in the mountains.

And heck, we are the North. Winter is us, part of our soul. Which is why I decided to visit 10 parks this winter as part of my yearlong odyssey to visit (hopefully) all 46 of Canada's national parks and reserves in honour of our country's 150th birthday.

My itinerary took me to four provinces — Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. My criteria were parks that offered either breathtaking vistas, superb cross-country skiing, intriguing animal experiments (bison breeding) or rugged new terrain.

I was never disappointed, except the one time I was not able to track down the bison herd in Elk Island National Park, just outside Edmonton. It turned out the herd had been shepherded to a remote corner of this postage stamp-sized park. So I had to make do with the stuffed baby bison in the visitors' centre.

The Rocky Mountains in winter have always been an amazing lure, partly for the skiing but mostly for the dramatic kaleidoscope of vistas. There is just something about mile after mile of towering snow-clad cedar forests encircling snow-capped mountains. This explains why I decided to start my odyssey in the Alberta Rockies on New Year's.

My first national park was Waterton Lakes, nestled among majestic peaks at the U.S. border, a few hours south of Calgary.

And it was en route to Waterton that I learned my first enduring lesson. Travelling to these parks takes you to unexpected sites, hidden gems and famous place names you simply hadn't anticipated.

The trip to Waterton, for example, along Alberta's stunning Highway 22, led me to Pincher Creek, which just happens to be the birthplace of a former assistant as well as Canada's Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.



One of the most spectacular routes in the world, Icefields Parkway winds its way through two national parks. ISTOCK



The Rocky Mountains in the winter have always been an amazing lure, partly for the skiing but mostly for the dramatic kaleidoscope of vistas.

John Honderich

A few kilometres farther along were signs to Crowsnest Pass, a route synonymous in Canadian history with freight rates and mountain slides. I just had to drive through. Later, I would drive through Kicking Horse Pass in Yoho Park and the highest, Rogers Pass, in Glacier National Park. A trifecta of Canadian railway history.

A different surprise came en route to Bruce Peninsula Park, at the northernmost tip of the Niagara escarpment in Ontario. There, in the Georgian Bay town of Wiarton, was a huge statue in honour of Wiarton Willy, Ontario's foremost predictive groundhog.

And driving back from La Mauricie Park along the shores

of the mighty Saint-Maurice River in Quebec, I happened upon a museum to native son Jean Chrétien in Shawinigan. It contained all the gifts the former prime minister received while in office. It was closed for the season.

When it comes to majesty, there is still nothing that matches the mountain splendour of the Icefields Parkway in Jasper. On a frigid, minus-30-degree, cloudless day, the mountains seemed almost to explode in full glory.

Indeed that feeling would reoccur during several drives through the four contiguous national parks — Jasper, Banff, Yoho and Kootenay — that form the

Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site.

Throw in two nearby B.C. parks — Glacier National Park and Mount Revelstoke National Park — and you are left almost breathless by the winter splendour. So, all in all, a good start to my four-season odyssey.

And if I do manage to visit all 46 parks, Parks Canada says I might even get a lifetime pass!

This is one in a series of columns by John Honderich, chairman of the board of Torstar, as he attempts to visit all of Canada's national parks during the country's 150th birthday year.

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BEST RESORTS FOR TRAVELLERS WITH DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

It can be hard to decide where to go for the best sun holiday. It's even harder if you need to take dietary restrictions into consideration. Food allergies, gluten free, vegetarian, or vegan diet, these resorts represent some of the best.

KATHY BUCKWORTH/FOR METRO



1 Sensatori Jamaica

Clients with food restrictions are issued with a card that they present at each restaurant on the resort to ensure that the food prepared for them is safe for their particular requirements. They also have a terrific gluten free section in their buffet.



2 IBEROSTAR Grand Hotel Paradiso in Riviera Maya

Guests indicate dietary restrictions during booking. They get a letter to present to chefs on property, who either prepare a special dish or highlight options. All IBEROSTAR properties have vegetarian and vegan options.



3 Paradisus Cancun

Every restaurant in the resort has vegetarian and gluten free options. For other food restrictions, guests are sent an email to confirm their dietary needs; a specific menu will be designed. The executive Chef will visit the guest upon arrival and check in during the stay to get feedback on their gastronomic experience.

Family resorts pamper parents too

VACATION

It can be easier to unwind when children's needs are cared for

Eva Salinas
For Metro Canada



There's no doubt that our children change us. From the day they are born, we don't sleep, eat, or work quite the same again. Little fingers under the bathroom door mean not even a trip to the toilet will ever be like it was before.

For me, the most symbolic change was the way I would travel. Being tethered to a little one meant my days of spontaneous or extended backpacking trips were over (or at least greatly postponed). For someone who spent her entire 20s moving from city to city, continent to continent, sleeping under stars in San Sebastian or in a tent in the Atacama desert, this was big.

Thankfully, memories from the road — and new ones in the



It was important for me to give my kid a taste of the country too. EVA SALINAS/FOR METRO CANADA

backyard — fill the void.

But when the opportunity came recently to go on a trip with my now-five-year-old son, I jumped on it. It would be equally symbolic of my new life — a few days at Club Med Ixtapa Pacific, on Mexico's West coast.

I had somehow avoided all-inclusive vacations until this trip. They were never appealing to me — the all-day drinking, the

crowds of tourists, my dollars leaving the country by way of a foreign company.

But when you're a single parent in need of a break and desperate for new horizons, you take what you can get. And when what you can get turns out to be the cream of the all-inclusive crop, you feel very grateful you are able to travel at all.

Club Med's Ixtapa Pacific loca-

tion was a hot, decadent dream. For better or worse, it both met my resort expectations and exceeded them — the buffets were excessive but to die for; the entertainment shows were over-the-top and cheesy but impressive (the acrobatics had me mesmerized); the long list of daily options — taking breakfast by the ocean, swimming in the pool, getting a massage, trying the trapeze, etc.

— felt incredibly self-indulgent.

There were no drunken spring break scenes. The beach was public, hosting tourists and Mexicans alike. The day-long kids clubs, where my son could go to swim, play, try the trampoline, take a Mexican cooking class and do tie-dye, among a million other things, were very welcome.

I quickly realized however that I didn't have to leave behind my old self completely. So we ventured outside the resort to wander in nearby Zihuatanejo, where you can eat quesadillas at a lunch counter in the market or count fallen coconuts in between the fishing boats on the beach. And we took one of the Club's excursions to Troncones, where participating in the turtle rescue operation — helping them hatch and make it safely into the water — was a trip highlight.

And while I had assumed I would use the babysitting service more often, in the end I spent much more of each day with my son than expected. That time on the beach with him — a long way from work, a messy house, our scheduled lives — was the best part of all, and what I have always loved about travelling in the first place.

FUN FOR YOU

Indulge

That is, The. Point. In food, the poolside, time to yourself, sunsets, all of it.

Kids' clubs

They will love it. But know your kids' limits — to prevent a grumpy morning or late-night meltdown.

Leave extra gear at home

Family-friendly resorts have everything you may need, from cribs to strollers to eager staff willing to help.

Try something new

Whether a treatment at the spa (usually an additional cost) or one of the sports on offer, such as paddle boarding or sailing (often included).

Choose wisely

A family-oriented resort will make sure kids have fun. If illness or food is a concern, spend more to ensure the club places emphasis on the quality of meals.

TRAVEL NOTES ANCIENT TAPESTRIES, NEW ORLEANS' NEW RECORD, MAID OF THE MIST OPENS

Church's art revealed

New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine spent 16 years cleaning and conserving its rare, supersize wall hangings. Now the historic house of worship is inviting the public to enjoy the fruits of its labour — The Barberini Tapestries, Scenes from the Life of Christ, which once graced the Vatican and European palaces. The exhibit, which also will offer educational activities, runs through June 25. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



NOLA tourism up

A new study says New Orleans has broken a tourism record set before Hurricane Katrina, with nearly 10.5 million visitors in 2016. The record had stood at 10.1 million since 2004, the year before the hurricane struck. University of New Orleans' Hospitality Research Center says last year's visitors spent \$7.41 billion — 51 per cent more than in 2004, and 5.1 per cent above the spending record set in 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Early launch for Maid of the Mist

The Maid of the Mist tour boats at Niagara Falls are being readied for their earliest launch ever. The famed boats that bring passengers from the New York shore to the base of the falls in the lower Niagara River will open the 2017 season on Saturday.

A similar attraction, operated by Hornblower, launches from the Canadian shore the same day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOT A TOURIST | A letter from Nick Perry in the Antarctic



The Southern Lights are seen over the Southern Ocean near Antarctica from a chartered plane Friday, March 24, 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glimpse of the Southern Lights worth the round-trip

They took an eight-hour flight just to look out the airplane's window, but it was an extraordinary view.

A charter plane that left Dunedin, New Zealand, late Thursday flew close to the Antarctic Circle to give the eager passengers an up-close look at the Aurora Australis, or Southern Lights.

Otago Museum Director Ian Griffin came up with the idea. An astronomer, Griffin said he was inspired after seeing the Southern Lights while flying as a guest on a NASA observatory plane.

He says the 134 seats on the chartered Boeing 767 sold out within five days and one man travelled from Spain for the trip. He says he could have filled the plane several times over, although they were only selling window seats and seats immediately adjacent, leaving the middle of the aircraft empty.

"I thought it was abso-

lutely brilliant," Griffin said. "We were right under it. There were beautiful streamers, auroral streamers. This green-colored stuff that moves quickly, it looks like you're looking into a green, streaky river."

Passenger Nick Wong said he'd stumbled upon the idea of the flight last year through social media and decided to sign up. "I didn't think we would actually see such a spectacular display, even by the naked eye," he said. "It was really great to be a part of an adventure with like-minded people who were equally or more excited at viewing this phenomena as I was."

Wong, a cancer research scientist, said he loves going camping and looking at the stars, something he found more stunning in New Zealand after moving from Australia three years ago.

Wong said he didn't have any spare leave and was

back at work giving a presentation on Friday after a night without sleep. He said viewing the Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, remained on his bucket list.

The Northern Lights are more famous in part because the northern polar region has more inhabited land. But the Southern Lights put on a similar show. Both are caused by particles from the sun interacting with the Earth's magnetic field.

Griffin said the plane travelled to more than 60 degrees latitude south and offered about five hours viewing time. He said he chose a day close to the equinox and when the moon phase would allow maximum darkness.

One seat cost about \$1,800 or double that for business class.

Griffin said he's thinking about another trip next year. Because the Boeing 767 is being decommissioned and the trip proved so popular, he said he may seek a larger jet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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5 THINGS TO SEE IN AND AROUND LISBON, PORTUGAL

Portugal is on numerous "where to go" lists for 2017. One of Europe's most affordable destinations, if you visit in the off-season you'll find five-star hotels for \$100 a night. Metered taxis cost only a few euros a trip and elaborate fado club meals averaged about \$60, but ordinary restaurants are much cheaper. In Lisbon, you can afford to live like a Portuguese king. **BETH J. HARPAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



1 Clube de Fado

Have you ever heard a song so tender and soulful it brought you to tears, even though you couldn't understand a word? Fado is a Portuguese folk music tradition that blends the drama and rhythm of flamenco with the sentimentality of a torch song.

At Clube de Fado, a legendary Brazilian singer, Fafa de Belem, along with Cuca Roseta, a popular singer who's part of fado's new generation (pictured standing), surprised crowds with an impromptu performance. It was the Lisbon equivalent of Tina Turner and Alicia Keys appearing unannounced at a New York blues club. Other fado clubs to visit: Sr. Vinho, Casa de Fados and Tasca do Chico.



2 Amalia Rodrigues

By day, we toured Lisbon's Museu do Fado, as well as the home of the late, great fado singer Amalia Rodrigues (pictured here in a portrait hanging in her home). She's considered Portugal's finest singer of fado, a soulful, melancholy genre of Portuguese folk music. They are songs of love, loss and longing, rooted in Portugal's seafaring culture, which for centuries has bid farewell to sailors, not knowing when or whether they'd return.

Guided tours of the house she lived in offer an intimate look at her life, including exhibits of her costumes.



3 Tower of Belem

A stunning 16th-century fort on the banks of the Tagus River, the Tower of Belem is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Lisbon's most famous landmarks. The picturesque fortress dates to the 16th century when Portuguese explorers sailed the globe, establishing a colonial empire that stretched from Asia to Africa to South America.

Another landmark on the Tagus is the Monument to the Discoveries, a stone ship erected in the 20th century to memorialize the Age of Exploration.



4 National Coach Museum

The National Coach Museum displays gilded, velvet-lined coaches used by royalty. An 18th Century coach on display (pictured) was ordered by Austria's Emperor Joseph I for the wedding of his sister Ana with Portuguese King Joao V. The museum's collection provides a window on how kings and queens got from place to place.

5 Sintra Palace

Get a sense of how real kings lived at the magnificent Palace of Sintra, 26 kilometres from Lisbon, one of several places we visited on a Gray Line tour. The palace served as a home to Portuguese royalty for centuries. The ornate walls and ceilings are decorated with intricate tilework and paintings.

My favourite spot amid the various tiled rooms and treasures was a ceiling decorated with 136 magpies, symbolizing a king's flirtation with one of the queen's 136 ladies-in-waiting, some dating to the 1600s.



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SCIENCE

Is Hudson Bay a portal to another dimension?

Sean Plummer

Moving there won't mean you suddenly weigh a lot less (or get one bit skinner), but the fact that gravity is demonstrably lower in Canada's Hudson Bay is certainly notable.

Scientists first noticed the anomaly back in the 1960s while conducting a global gravity survey.

Could it be a portal to another dimension, wondered

conspiracy theorists? Well, that explanation was as good as any until 2007 when new satellite data helped scientists come up with a slightly more plausible view.

Around 10,000 years ago, the Laurentide Ice Sheet, which covered present-day Canada and much of the northern U.S. in miles-thick ice, weighed so much that it displaced rocks across a huge area. Ever since, the Earth has been rebounding ever so slightly, but that lack of mass has meant lower gravity readings in the area.

Add to this the fact that continental convection currents are slowly dragging down tectonic plates into the Earth, and you have what's not exactly an anti-gravity area, but a cool Canadian curiosity.



Gravity is demonstrably lower in Canada's Hudson Bay. ISTOCK

Santa lives here!

Of course Santa Claus is a Canadian. He even has his own postal code to prove it: H0H 0H0.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declared the same in Parliament back in 2013 when discussion turned to the Russians wanting to step up military activity in Santa's backyard.

The NDP declared Santa to be a "citizen of the world," but we are behind Justin on this one. Besides, why else would he be wearing red and white?

SEAN PLUMMER

From east to west, a coast to impress

Canadians are not typically boastful by nature, but as we are celebrating our country's 150th anniversary this year, we will take every advantage we can.

So when you are looking for facts to sell Canada as the greatest country, you can pull out this one: we have the most coast.

With borders that take in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans, we can boast about 202,080 km of coast, nearly four times as much as the runner-up, Indonesia.

SEAN PLUMMER



Drive along part of Canada's exquisite 202,080 km of coast on the Sea to Sky Highway south of Vancouver. ISTOCK



Santa Claus is a Canadian. ISTOCK

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NHL OILERS WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT Justin Braun of the Sharks checks Oilers winger Milan Lucic at Rogers Place on Thursday night. Patrick Maroon scored twice, including the game-winner early in the third period, and the Oilers held on for a 3-2 victory. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Chan sits in third after short program

Canada's Patrick Chan made his one quadruple jump, a big one, at the Hartwell Arena in Helsinki.

The three-time world champion sat third after Thursday's men's short program at the world figure skating championships, planting himself in podium contention with the textbook skills and gorgeous execution that once made him the world's best.

"I was trying to stick to my plan," Chan said.

"My whole goal this year was to try and challenge myself just to stay in my own world and know that I belong in this group of men, and not get too discouraged."

Defending champion Javier Fernandez of Spain scored 109.05 to win the short program, while Japan's Shoma Uno (104.86) was

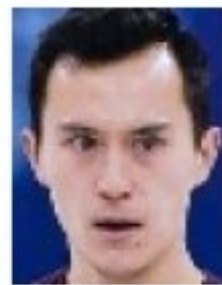
second. Each had a pair of clean quads.

Quads will be a big factor in Saturday's long program. Chan has three in his long program, but has never landed all three.

Canada's Eric Radford and Meagan Duhamel held on to finish seventh in the pairs competition. The two-time world champs finished with 206.06 points for their shaky program.

China's Sui Wenjing and Han Cong won gold.

Canada's Lubov Ilyushechkina and Dylan Moscovitch finished sixth. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Patrick Chan
GETTY IMAGES

Gushue buoyed by top-tier experience

CURLING

Veteran skip set to make his worlds debut

Brad Gushue and his teammates have plenty of experience wearing the Maple Leaf even though they're set to make their first appearance at the world men's curling championship.

Gushue and third Mark Nichols won Olympic gold at the Turin Games in 2006, five years after winning a world junior title together. Second Brett Gallant skipped Canada to world junior silver in 2009 and lead Geoff Walker played third on the national team skipped by Charley Thomas that won world junior gold in 2006.

The foursome from St. John's will be podium favourites when the 2017 world men's playdowns begin Saturday at the Northlands Coliseum. The Brier champions are joined by coach Jules Owchar, team leader Rick Lang and alternate Tom Sallows.

"Lots of experience within the room," Gushue said. "I don't think there's going to be anything that's really going to surprise us."

Earlier this month, Gushue edged Kevin Koe 7-6 to win the national men's title for the first time in 14 tries. He became the first Newfoundland skip to hoist the Brier Tankard since Jack Mac-



Brad Gushue, left, Mark Nichols, Brett Gallant and Geoff Walker receive the Brier Tankard after winning the men's national championship on March 12. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duff in 1976.

Gushue's team came through despite the pressure and distractions that came with playing in their hometown.

They also played hurt as Gushue has been dealing with a hip/groin issue and Walker's sweeping abilities were hampered by a right shoulder injury.

"To win this one, it doesn't seem to make much sense,"

Gushue said. "I think it really showed that our team has a lot of grit and determination."

The top-ranked team will look to build on that success in Edmonton. Sweden's Niklas Edin, Switzerland's Peter de Cruz and Scotland's David Murdoch are also expected to contend for podium spots.

Edin, who won Olympic bronze at the 2014 Sochi Games,

won world titles in 2013 and 2015. De Cruz won a world junior title in 2010 while Murdoch took Olympic silver in 2014 and is a two-time world men's champion ('06, '09).

The 12-team field also includes American John Shuster, China's Rui Liu, Germany's Alexander Baumann, Italy's Joel Retornaz, Japan's Yusuke Morozumi, Jaap Van Dorp of the Netherlands, Norway's Steffen Walstad and Russia's Alexey Stukalskiy.

"I feel like our team is definitely one of the favourites going in," Gushue said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

“Lots of experience in the room. I don't think there's going to be anything that's really going to surprise us.” Brad Gushue

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IN BRIEF

'Bathroom bill' deal key to N. Carolina hosting events

Basketball-mad North Carolina is hoping its move to roll back its "bathroom bill" will help it avoid another costly hit when the NCAA selects four years of championship sites for a variety of sports.

College athletics' governing body said that it is deciding this week on locations for tournaments through the spring of 2022 and that it wouldn't award any to North Carolina if the law known as House Bill 2 was still on the books.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FINAL FOUR SCHEDULE
Saturday at Glendale, Ariz.

● Gonzaga vs. South Carolina, 6:09 p.m.

● North Carolina vs. Oregon, 8:49 p.m.

*All times Eastern

Oregon player Dillon Brooks of Mississauga, Ont.

GETTY IMAGES

Team Canada 'on a mission'



Marie-Philip Poulin scored the overtime winner in Canada's gold-medal victory over the U.S. at the Sochi Olympics in 2014. ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

HOCKEY

U.S. 'energized' heading into women's world championship

Canada will open the women's world hockey championship against a U.S. team either drained from the drama of recent days or empowered by winning concessions from their own federation.

Regardless, the Canadians are pleased their archrivals will be on the ice with them Friday in Plymouth, Mich. The U.S. women had threatened to boycott the tournament unless they received more financial support from USA Hockey.

"We wanted them here," Canadian forward Haley Irwin said. "At a world championship, you want the best teams to be here to compete against and compete for a gold medal."

The American women's campaign, and the support they received from tennis legend Billie Jean King to the NHL Players' Association to U.S. senators, has created a buzz around the host

team and defending champions.

"Completely energized," U.S. captain Meghan Duggan declared. "We're going to use all that momentum we kind of built up, really just channel it in to energy for the start of the tournament."

The players and USA Hockey came to an agreement Tuesday just in time for the top American players to pursue a fourth straight women's world title.



There's a lot of talent right across the spectrum and it can go either way.

Laura Schuler,
Canada's head coach

The Americans held just their second practice as a team Thursday, compared to the Canadians who have already played two exhibition games during their week-long training camp.

Canada and the U.S. have met in the final of every women's world championship final dating back to the first one in 1990.

Alex Carpenter scored the overtime winner for the U.S. in a 1-0 win last year in Kamloops, B.C. The Americans have won six of the last seven, with Canada's last gold in 2012 in Burlington, Vt.

"It's been a while since we won that world championship and I think we're on a mission right now," said Canadian captain Marie-Philip Poulin.

"We want to bring it back to Canada. We know it's going to be hard."

Canada is 3-7 versus the U.S. since beating them in an overtime thriller for Olympic gold in 2014. Canada won their two most recent meetings, by scores of 5-3 and 3-2 in December's exhibition series.

Canada, the U.S., Finland and Russia are in a pool of the top four countries in the world. Sweden, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Germany are in the other pool.

The two teams with the best records in Canada's pool get byes to the semifinals. The other two play quarter-finals against the top two teams emerging from the other pool. The medal games are April 7.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

China looked at as next hockey nation

China wants to get its hockey program up to par before hosting the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. The NHL is using that as a starting point for a long-term vision to turn the country into a hockey nation.

The league is making the country of almost 1.4 billion people a top priority internationally. The Los Angeles Kings and Vancouver Canucks will play exhibition games in Shanghai and Beijing in September, and the games and the Olympics are only the beginning of what the NHL hopes is a bigger investment.

"The way we're looking at it is it's really not about 2022. It's about 2032 and '42 and so on and really building the game," NHL executive vice-president of media and international strategy David Proper said by phone from Beijing. "It's doing a disservice ultimately to the building of hockey in China to just target a five-year range and not be looking past that."

At a news conference announcing the exhibition games, commissioner Gary Bettman

called them "the beginning of what we believe will be a very long-term relationship."

The upcoming Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, next year has created conflict for the league, which has expressed reluctance to stop its season to play 13 hours ahead of Eastern Time in a place that isn't necessarily a hockey market.

The NHL looks at the NBA, which has had a foothold in China for decades, as a blueprint for the future. But before there's a hockey version of Yao Ming, Chinese fans need to learn more about the sport.

Andong Song, the first Chinese player drafted by an NHL team, said most people in his homeland didn't

know much about hockey even when the New York Islanders took him in the sixth round in June of 2015. Song was part of China's presentation to the International Olympic Committee alongside Yao and said getting the Games in 2022 got people buzzing about hockey and other winter sports.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



NBA BULLS STAND THEIR GROUND AGAINST CAVS

Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving looks to pass against Bulls centre Robin Lopez on Thursday in Chicago. Nikola Mirotic scored 28 points to lead the Bulls to a 99-93 win. In a losing effort, LeBron James had 26 points and passed Shaquille O'Neal for seventh place on the NBA's career scoring list. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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9	4	6	5	1	8	7	3	2
8	5	2	4	3	7	6	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	6	4	5	8
6	8	1	7	5	2	9	4	3
2	3	5	1	4	9	8	6	7
4	7	9	6	8	3	2	1	5

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3. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes, or until marshmallows are lightly browned and chocolate is melted. Be careful not to over bake the chocolate.

4. Serve with stacks of graham crackers to dip and enjoy.

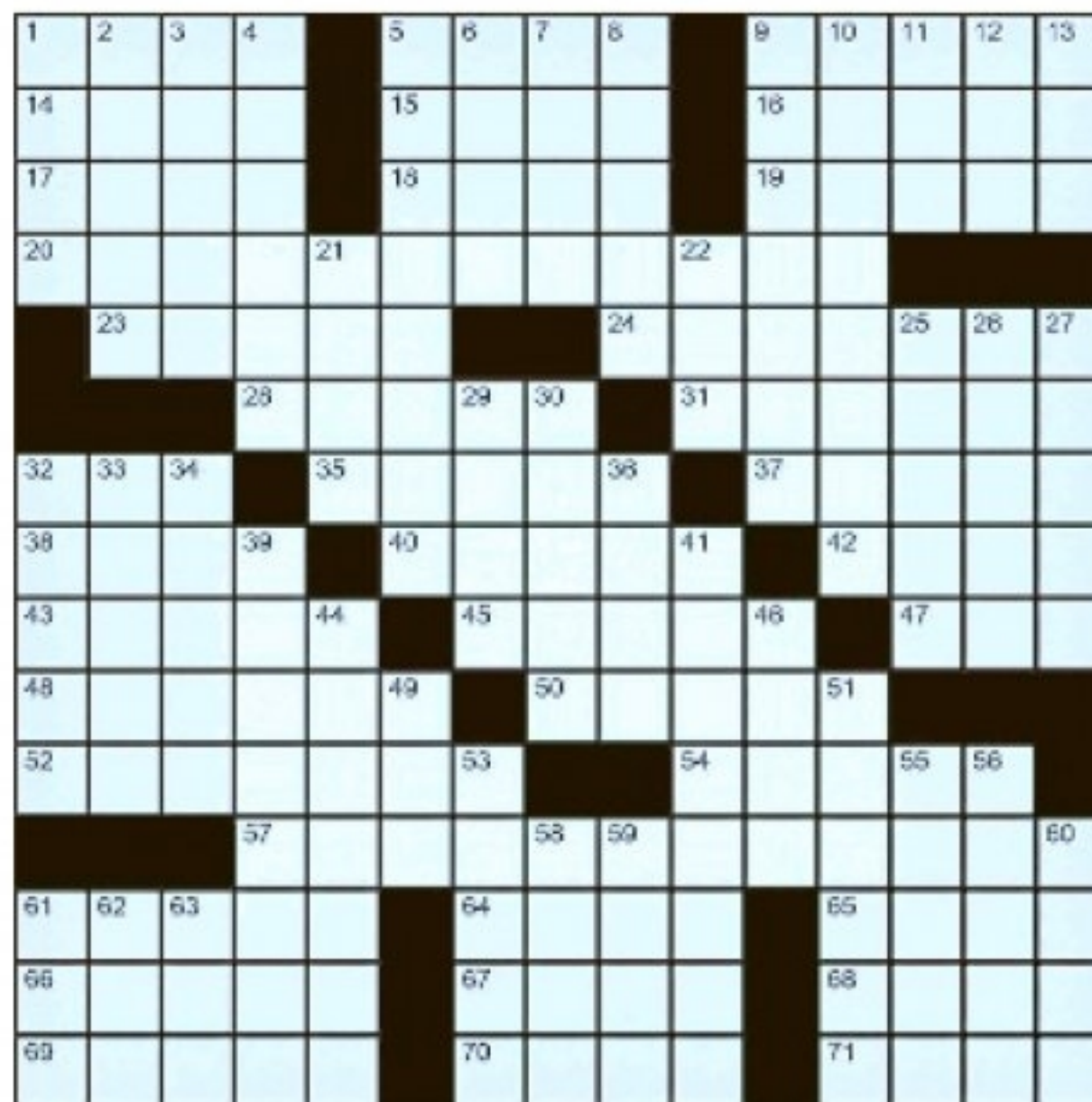
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ACROSS

1. "You ___ Meant for Me" by Jewel
5. British raincoats, fun-style
9. Short romance
14. Figure skating jump
15. Aid and ___
16. "American Pie" embankment
17. Aggravate
18. Former musical comedy on FOX
19. Up to now: 2 wds.
20. Performance centre in Montreal: 3 mots
23. Showbiz news show hosted by Mario Lopez
24. ___ Party of Canada
28. River sediments
31. Switzerland city
32. Sugar amt.
35. Roman goddess of agriculture
37. Wallet item, ___ card
38. Gets by, just barely
40. One with a pad and paper
42. Food Network creation
43. Sacred temple practices
45. Ornamental edging of loops
47. Anonymous surname
48. Angel
50. Taboos
52. "Cool It Now" by New ___
54. "Boot Boot"
57. 'B' of CBC
61. Sleeping prob-



64. Jam-in together
65. "Hop ___!" (Get moving)
66. Pop into the freezer
67. Uncommon
68. Root that's edible
69. Places at a slant

70. ___ and flows
71. Robin Colcord's portrayal on "Cheers", Roger ___

DOWN

1. ___ speed, as on "Star Trek"
2. Banish

3. Put up your feet and stay awhile
4. Chooses a candidate
5. Gulf of St. Lawrence archipelago, ___ Islands
6. 'Obtain' suffix
7. So-so grades
8. Pilfer

9. ___ truck
10. Diminished
11. "Poison ___" by The Coasters
12. Maiden name word preceder
13. Become
21. Mr. Stoltz of movies
22. Tractor trailer

25. Raise one's paddle at the auction another time
26. Notice/warning, in Spain
27. Workshop machine
29. French for 'too much'
30. ___ stone (Unchangeable)
32. Succinct
33. Went to Whistler
34. Agar-holding lab dish
36. Like dry Spanish wine
39. Car safety device
41. Glace Bay, Nova Scotia born stand-up comedian: 2 wds.
44. Coils
46. Pump parts
49. Which person, wondered the owl?
51. Jet-___ (World traveller)
53. Mother-of-pearl
55. ___ Janeiro
56. Like a nasty comment
58. Dullsville
59. Atkins = Low-___ diet
60. Ronny & The Daytonas cars
61. Take steps
62. ___ Beta Kappa
63. Naught

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You're full of big ideas today because you're in such a positive frame of mind. Enjoy discussions with siblings, neighbors and relatives. (They will be impressed.)

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Business and commerce are favoured today, because you are in a moneymaking frame of mind. Furthermore, you're not afraid to entertain ambitious ideas. Good stuff!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Today the Moon is in your sign and you feel content and happy. It's a good day for business. It's also a good day to enjoy family activities at home.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you will prefer to work behind the scenes or perhaps alone. It's also a good day to research and look for answers to old problems.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Relationships with friends and group members will be upbeat and positive today. Make an effort to be sociable and friendly, because you are the one who will get a pleasant payoff.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You make a great impression on bosses and VIPs today. In fact, work-related travel or talking to people from other cultures is likely for some of you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do something different today. Shake up your routine. You have an urge for adventure and you also want to learn something new. Go someplace you have never been before

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a good day to discuss shared property and issues related to insurance, wills, inheritances and anything that you own jointly with others. Things will likely go in your favor.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today, because the Moon is opposite your sign. This simply requires some tolerance, patience and co-operation.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do something to get better organized today. Make your workstation or where you live a bit neater. Tidy things up.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a playful, fun-loving day. It's also a good date day. Plan to have fun activities with children, friends and loved ones. Sporting events particularly will appeal.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You might want to cocoon at home today and just relax. Today pleasure appeals more than work — that's for sure. Take some time off just for yourself, because you deserve it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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3		9	5	8	6		2	
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